

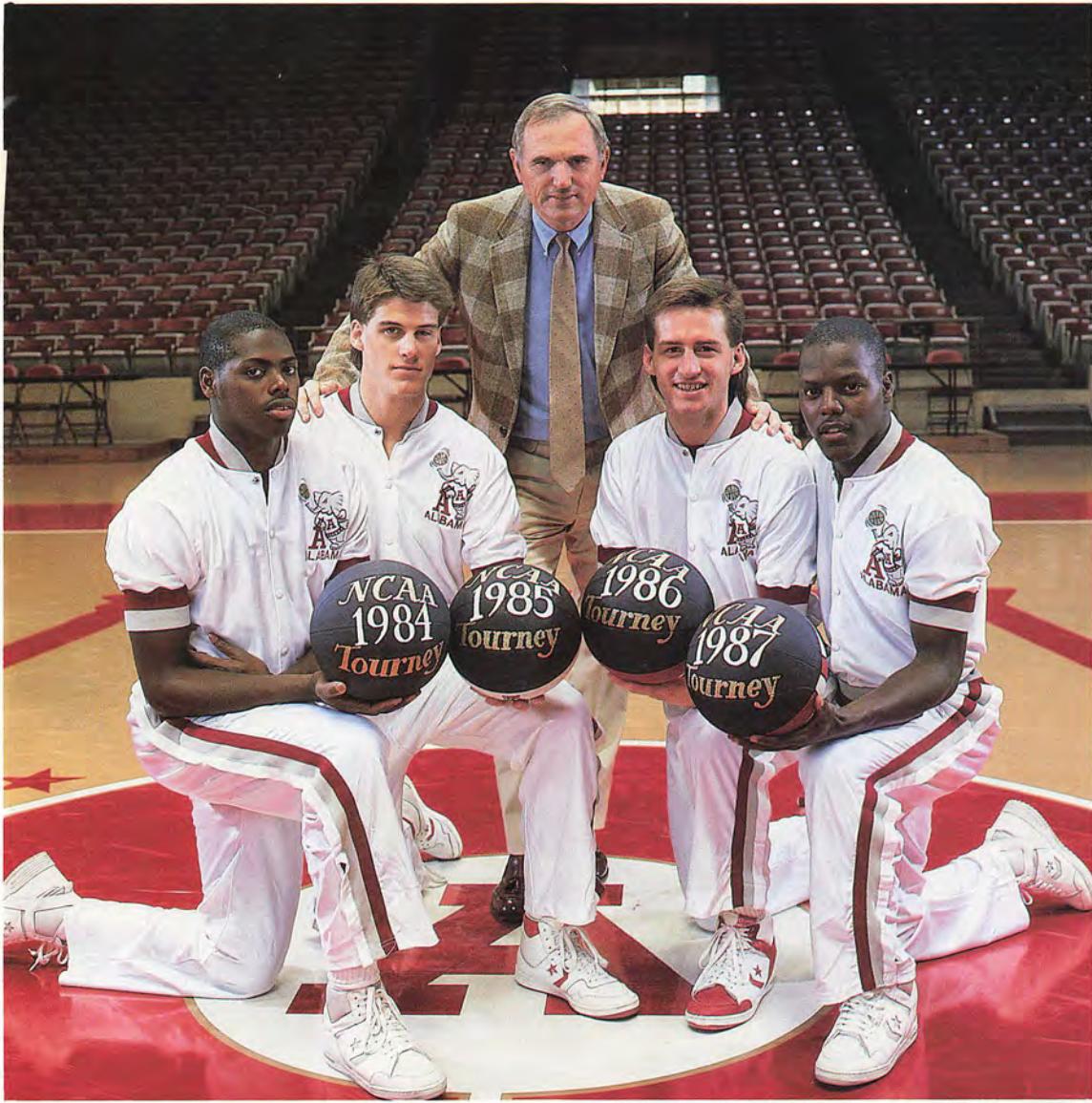
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

APRIL, 1987

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4

Inside: A Season To Remember



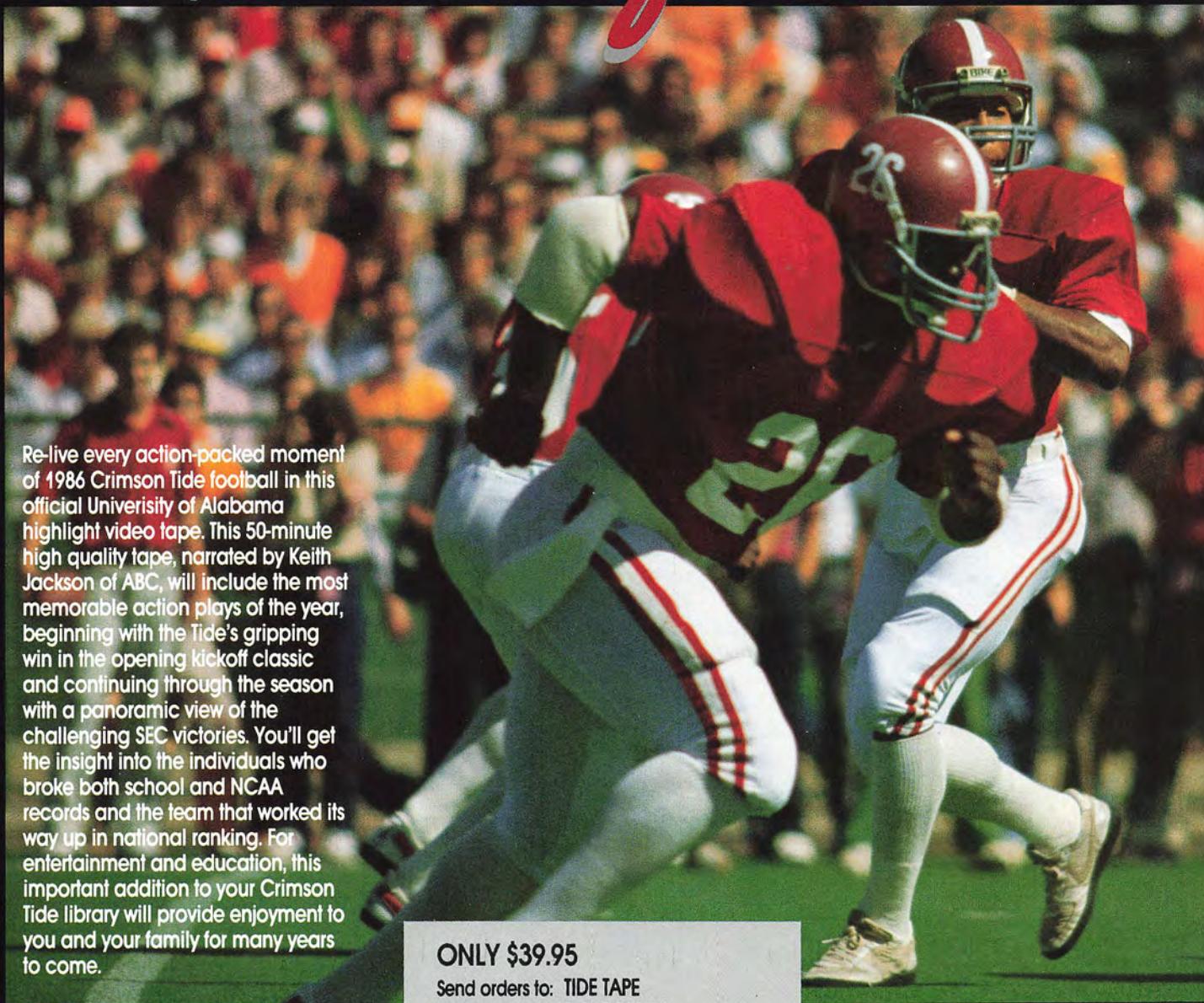
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

APRIL, 1987

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4

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On The Cover: Alabama's basketball team has been one of the nation's most successful in recent years. Tide Head Coach Wimp Sanderson is a primary reason, but he'd feel a lot more comfortable about next year if seniors (left to right) Terry Coner, Jim Farmer, Mark Gottfried and James Jackson were returning. See Page 5.

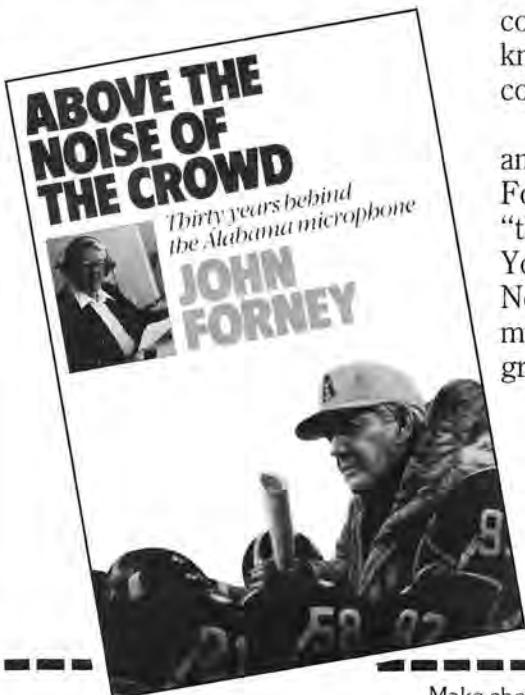
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A MEMBER OF



A Season To Remember

by Kirk McNair

Team and individual achievements in 1987 are best in basketball history

Prior to the 1986-87 season almost everyone was picking Alabama to be the best basketball team in the Southeastern Conference.



ence. It would have been unanimous had it not been for a Wimp.

Alabama's Winfrey Worrell Sanderson, who can look at a 16 ounce glass with 8 ounces of water in it and see it not only as half empty but as evaporating fast, was the only naysayer among those pre-judging Crimson Tide fortunes. How wonderful that he was so wrong.

In the preseason Sanderson worried aloud at how devastating an injury could be. Although he was primarily concerned about an

injury to an inside player, where depth was woeful, the injury came to All-SEC point guard Terry Coner. With Coner out the Tide lost two preseason games, a last-second shot upset at the hands of Florida State and a true beating by Duke. With Coner back in the lineup Bama came within two shots that hit the rim of going undefeated in SEC competition. The losses came in overtime to SEC runnerup Florida and at home to Kentucky. The fifth and final loss came to a red hot Providence in the round of 16 of the NCAA championship tournament. Providence made it to the Final Four.

Around those five setbacks were a school record 28 victories. There were three wins over LSU, the last one in the finals of the SEC Tournament. LSU would go on to be one of the hottest teams in the NCAA tournament. There were also three wins over Tennessee (one clinching the regular season SEC title) and Auburn, which was an NCAA entry. There were 2-0 records against Georgia, which earned an NCAA bid, as well as NIT entries Vanderbilt and Ole Miss. Mississippi State was another double victim. In all, Bama went 16-2 in SEC regular season play and 3-0 in the tournament. The Tide became only the second school to win both the double round robin and tournament and only the second school to have won the tournament twice since it was rekindled in 1979.

There were dramatic wins, starting with the putback in the last second that beat Georgia in the first SEC game of the year. It is unlikely there was any basketball game played in 1987 as exciting as the regular season final against Florida. Twice the Tide seemed dead and twice Alabama did what it had to do to win. Jay Jay Jackson's three-pointer off the glass to send the game to overtime and Derrick McKey's putback as overtime expired was an exclamation point to a season of success. In between there were holdoffs and comebacks as the Tide went through what many believe to be the nation's toughest basketball conference and emerged with a four-game bulge for the title. The 16 SEC victories and eight road wins in league play were

Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson will never forget his 1987 Crimson Tide, which set a Bama record for victories and dominated the Southeastern Conference.

Barry Fikes Photo



Alabama coaches and fans are counting on SEC Player of the Year Derrick McKey (31) leading Bama fortunes next year as a senior. Bill DeVaughn (left) was only a spot player as a freshman in 1987, but could be in for heavy duty in future seasons.

Barry Fikes Photo

school records. No team has ever won more than eight road games in league play.

There were winning streaks. Bama ripped off 12 in a row before falling in overtime on the road at Florida. And between the heart-breaking home loss to Kentucky and the sea-

son-ending defeat by Providence in Louisville there were 11 more wins.

There was shooting. Bama's 78.7 free throw shooting was best in the nation as well as school history and the Tide's 51.4 mark from the field including 44.3 percent from

three-point range (both best in the SEC) helped Alabama to a school record 2,641 points. In the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament, wins over North Carolina A&T and New Orleans, the Tide set school and NCAA records for shooting, hitting 40 of 55 field goal attempts—a 72.7 percent success rate.

And it's likely this Alabama team was seen by more people than any other in history. Average home attendance was over 11,000, easily the best ever, and six of nine SEC road contests were sellouts.

Alabama made it to the SEC Tournament finals for the third consecutive year. It was the Tide's sixth straight trip to the NCAA tournament, third in a row to the Sweet 16.

And, befitting such a season, there were honors galore. Top honorees were Sanderson and McKey. Virtually every poll (including the coaches' poll by *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* that had proved so embarrassing for Bama's head man a year earlier) had Sanderson as the SEC Coach of the Year, McKey as the SEC Player of the Year and McKey also added SEC Tournament Most Valuable Player to his honors. McKey was named to the five-man All-America squad by *Basketball Times*, which also named Sanderson national coach of the year. *The Houston Chronicle* also picked Bama's coach as best in the nation and the coaches of NCAA District VI picked him as coach of the year.

And McKey wasn't the only player honored. Coner joined him on all the five-man all-conference teams, as well as on the SEC All-Tournament squad. Senior Jim Farmer was named to several All-SEC teams with 10 men. Coner finished the year with 171 assists, an average of 6.3, making him the SEC's leading assist man for the third consecutive year. His career total of 662 assists was third best in SEC history.

Mark Gottfried was recognized throughout the league as one of the SEC's most tenacious defensive players and he was also honored as an Academic All-SEC.

In December Bama won the BMA Holiday Classic in Kansas City, defeating eventual NCAA entries Penn and Big Eight champion-to-be Missouri. McKey and Gottfried were selected all-tournament.

Sanderson has almost become famous for not getting respect. But numbers don't lie. His seven-year record is now 155-66, a 70 percent winning mark. In SEC regular season games he is 80-46, a 63.5 percent winning record. And in SEC tournament games his teams have gone 14-5, reaching the tournament finals five of the seven years he has been Bama's head coach.

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '87

Final Results

Won 28, Lost 5

82			@ Northeast Louisiana 56	82		@ Tennessee 71
96			Furman 69	80		@ Florida 90 (OT)
71			@ Florida State 72	83		Georgia 74 (OT)
87			Arkansas (Birmingham) 76	76		@ Mississippi State 55
67			Duke (East Rutherford, N.J.) 76	69		Kentucky (TV) 70
95			Appalachian State 62	71		@ Vanderbilt (TV) 67
71			@ Georgia 70	60		@ LSU (TV) 52
				90		Mississippi 69
110			BMA CLASSIC (Kansas City)	77		@ Auburn (TV) 75
91			Penn 68	93		Tennessee 71
			Missouri 82	86		Florida (TV) 85 (OT)
64			Mississippi State 49	68		SEC Tournament
69			@ Kentucky (TV) 55	87		Tennessee 60
75			Vanderbilt 71	69		Auburn 68
73			South Carolina 63			LSU 60
69			LSU (TV) 65	88		NCAA Tournament
71			@ Mississippi (TV) 62	101		North Carolina A&T 71
88			Auburn (TV) 82	82		New Orleans 76
						Providence 103

Several polls this year (notably one by *The Atlanta Journal* published during the SEC Tournament) chose him not only the coach of the year, but also the best coach now in the league.

Despite the acclaim he has received, Sanderson was quick to give credit to the players. Throughout the season he praised them for intense, unselfish, intelligent performance.

He probably doesn't want to think about it, but Sanderson now faces one of the most difficult rebuilding years imaginable. Alabama loses four seniors, three starters and the Tide's number one substitute. Wing players Jim Farmer and Mark Gottfried and point

guard Terry Coner, as well as backup guard Jay Jay Jackson will wear the Tide's crimson and white no more. And until May 8—which is declaration day for underclassmen (including, of course, junior Derrick McKey) wishing to be placed in the pool for the National Basketball Association draft on June 22—he will have something else to wrinkle his brow.

No one will expect Sanderson to field a team capable of defending the 1987 titles. Even with McKey returning the Tide will be no better than a preseason long shot to make a seventh straight trip to the NCAA tournament game. But if McKey is back, don't sell Sanderson short. He'll have his team's leading scorer and shot blocker back in McKey. He'll have his leading rebounder and field

goal percentage shooter back in Michael Ansley. And Keith Askins proved to be a player of great promise offensively and accomplished skills defensively in his first season. Also inside, Bill DeVaughn came on late in the year to show the one thing he had been lacking; that he wouldn't be pushed around.

Craig Dudley should recover from knee surgery and is an outstanding defensive guard. And Bama recruiting went very well in the fall period and should go well in the April signing frame. It's not the talent and experience of 1987, but Bama 1987-88 will have something going for it that the unforgettable champions of this past season did. Wimp Sanderson will be back on the court coaching them.

Final 1986-87 Alabama Basketball Statistics

RECORD: 28-5

SEC: 16-2

NCAA: 2-1

HOME: 11-1

ROAD: 17-4

PLAYER	G-ST	FG-FGA	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	REB-AVG.	PF-DQ	PTS-AVG.	AS	TO	BLKS	STLS
McKey	33-33	247-425	.581	100-116	.862	247-7.5	80-2	615-18.6	59	84	75	45
Farmer	33-33	196-421	.466	118-133	.887	159-4.8	91-3	546-16.5	61	69	0	41
Coner	27-24	112-222	.505	91-107	.850	73-2.7	55-1	315-11.7	173	96	5	36
Ansley	33-33	145-243	.597	73-109	.670	259-7.8	96-4	363-11.0	11	45	4	14
Gottfried	33-33	112-238	.471	34-45	.756	69-2.1	74-2	339-10.3	45	51	0	37
Jackson	33-9	73-148	.493	66-78	.846	59-1.8	40-0	240-7.3	52	44	1	40
Dudley	25-0	31-71	.437	18-28	.643	34-1.3	30-0	80-3.2	15	17	3	15
Askins	32-0	33-80	.475	16-29	.552	95-3.0	52-0	94-2.9	8	23	8	21
Cornegy	11-0	11-20	.550	3-10	.300	14-1.3	14-0	25-2.3	1	2	5	0
DeVaughn	24-0	11-32	.344	2-7	.286	36-1.5	24-0	24-1.0	9	8	5	3
Team	33					96-2.9						
BAMA TOTALS		976-1900	.514	521-662	.787	*1141-34.6	556-12	2641-80.0	434	439	106	252
OPP. TOTALS		880-1945	.452	382-535	.714	+1044-31.6	617-26	2295-69.5	461	451	79	210
*Plus 44 Deadball Rebounds						Bama Scoring Margin: +10.5						
+Plus 54 Deadball Rebounds						Bama Rebound Margin: +3.0						

THREE-POINT SHOTS: Alabama (168-379, .443) -- Jackson (28-57, .491), Gottfried (81-167, .485), McKey (21-50, .420), Farmer (36-93, .387), Askins (2-7, .286), Coner (0-4, .000), DeVaughn (0-1, .000).
 Opponents (165-430, .384).

Basketball Prospects:

A Search For New Tiders

by Bruce Graham

It's another season for Bama basketball coaches, now in search of new talent

It has often been said that recruiting is the lifeblood of a college team. Alabama basketball, which is suffering from massive graduation hemorrhaging, got a dose of blue chip blood in the early signing period last fall. Bryant Lancaster of Valley of Fairfax, Marcus Campbell of Livingston and Melvin Cheatum of Winnsboro, Louisiana, all had all-state senior seasons. Now Bama coaches are hard at work hoping to give the Tide an additional transfusion this spring. New signings can begin April 8 and Alabama, coming off a highly-publicized and successful season, has reason to expect additional successes.

Owing to NCAA rules and good sense, Bama's coaches aren't about to reveal the objects of their searches. However, word gets around, and the word is that Alabama is considering (and being considered by) some of the best prep and junior college basketball talent available. Tide Head Coach Wimp Sanderson is expected to sign at least three players this spring, and at least two of them can be expected to be point guards—Alabama's biggest deficiency looking ahead to next season.

Here is a look at some of those reportedly linked to Alabama:

In Birmingham there are still at least three players considered major college prospects, two of them point guards. Ernest Brown (6-1) of Jackson-Olin averaged 12 points and five assists per game in leading the Mustangs to a 19-6 record. Roosevelt Powell (6-3) of Hayes led his team to the state tournament as he averaged 16 points and four assists per game. The remaining inside player is super-quick Zane Arnold (6-7, 220) of Parker. Arnold averaged 18 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots per game in leading Coach William "Cap" Brown's Thundering Herd to a 23-6 record. Brown said "Zane handles the ball well and has the ability to rebound and score inside and outside." He



One of the state of Alabama's unsigned prep stars, guard Roosevelt Powell of Birmingham Hayes, led his team to the state tournament.

Barry Pikes Photo

said his star was considering Alabama, Auburn, Arizona State and Alabama-Birmingham.

Out-of-state prep guards said to be considering Alabama include Michael Hardin (6-0) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Southern Lab, Dustin Hester (6-3) of Crestview, Florida, and Gary Waites (6-1) of Towers High in Decatur, Georgia.

Hester was reportedly torn between Alabama and New Orleans in the early signing period, but information now indicates he may have ruled out both those finalists.

Hester averaged 17 points, 12 assists and

five rebounds per game and has another score of note—23 on the ACT. Although his father is the head basketball coach at Ponce de Leon High, Hester played for Coach Ken Rogers at Crestview, leading his team to a 27-6 record and runnerup spot in the state tournament. "Dustin's strengths are his ball-handling, sharp passing and great shooting," said his coach. "His most unique accomplishment is that over the last three years he has been on teams reaching the finals of the state tournament, and in three different classifications." The coach said Hester is also considering Auburn, Oklahoma State, Miami, Southern Miss and South Florida.

Waites is considered one of the nation's top players not signed in the fall period. He was named Georgia's 3A Player of the Year and has been selected to play on a Junior Olympic team in Europe this spring and in the Boston Shootout in the summer. He averaged 19 points, 11 assists, five steals and four rebounds per game for Coach Mike Hall. His coach said "He is a true point guard who is a great passer, good shooter, very good ball-handler and he has quick hands and feet for defensive skills." Among the long list of schools seeking Waites' services in addition to Bama are Clemson, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, Duke and North Carolina.

Alabama is also reported to be recruiting at least two other prep performers in the Southeast, 6-7 small forwards Kevin Brooks of White Castle, Louisiana, and John Pelphrey of Paintsville, Kentucky.

Brooks led his team to the district title and the semifinals of the state tournament as he averaged 25 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots per game. Head Coach Ronald Johnson describes his star as "a player with good quickness and the best ball-handler on the team. He's a perimeter shooter who can run the floor." He, too, has a long

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list of schools from which to choose, including LSU, Georgetown, Houston and New Orleans.

Pelphrey, who was chosen Kentucky's top prep prospect in a poll of high school coaches by *The Louisville Courier-Journal* in the pre-season, averaged over 20 points and 13 rebounds. He does just as well in the classroom with a 3.7 grade point average and a 25 on the ACT. He was recently chosen to play in the prestigious McDonald's Derby Festival Classic in Louisville April 18. Vanderbilt, Clemson and Western Kentucky are also said to be chasing Pelphrey.

Although Alabama has not often looked for basketball help from the junior college ranks, the need for guards has Tide recruiters reported in the Lone Star state, at Snyder where 6-1 Alvin Lee starred at Western Texas College and at Midland where 6-1 Daron "Mookie" Blalock led Midland Junior College to the championship game of the national junior college tournament.

Lee averaged a nation's best 34.4 points per game and also averaged five assists and three steals per game. As a freshman he hit 63 percent from the field. Shooting three-pointers as a sophomore his average fell to only 61 percent from the field. He also shot 88 percent from the free throw line. His 985 points as a senior and 1,615 for his career are both school records. He was a two-time all-conference star for Coach Phil Spradling. His coach said "He really enjoyed his visit to Alabama and he saw a great game (Bama's heart-stopping overtime victory over Florida)," said Spradling. He's also considering Oklahoma, Virginia Commonwealth (he's a native of Richmond, Virginia) and Arkansas.

Blalock led his team to a 32-4 record and into the finals of the national junior college tournament, but did not get to play in that final game because he fractured his foot in the semifinals. He averaged 19 points per game on 51 percent shooting from the field and 72 percent free throw accuracy and dished out 149 assists while collecting 113 steals. Until Blalock came along the most famous guard in school history was Spud Webb, the mighty midget of the Atlanta Hawks. Oklahoma is Bama's primary competition for Blalock.

Almost as much as the victories and honors amassed by Bama's basketball team this year, a measure of recognition for the program is the number of prep and junior college stars who include the Crimson Tide as one of the teams they are considering. Falling into that category in various publications include:

Maurice Artis, 6-11, Killeen, Texas; Eric Burger, 6-2, Moberly (Missouri) Junior Col-



Alvin Lee led the nation in scoring in junior college competition as he averaged 34.4 points per game for Western Texas College.

Snyder (Texas) Daily News Photo

lege; Rod Cole, 6-4, Conyers, Georgia; Billy Douglas, 6-4, Lake Forest, Illinois; Chris Duncan, 6-4, Hiwassee Junior College in Madisonville, Tennessee; Darryl Knight, 6-3, South Plains (Texas) Junior College; Barry Manning, 6-4, Columbia, South Carolina; Vladimar McCrary, 6-5, San Antonio, Texas; Ron Reese, 6-9, Franklin, Virginia; Bobby Russell, 6-5, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and David Williams, 6-6, Washington, D.C.

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It Won't Be Pretty

by Kirk McNair

Curry builds football players by having them play football



Once upon a time Bill Curry had practices that were the envy of the football world. "They were beautiful," he said of his early days as a head coach. "They were so structured and we had every drill known to man. I used to dream up new drills. We were a great drill team. Pro scouts would come in to see our players and tell me what great practices we had. And that was great, except that we weren't winning.

"So we developed a system of building a football team to play games."

Curry isn't the first football coach with an appreciation for drills. "Dude Hennessey (currently director of Bryant Hall) told me a story about his first day as an Alabama assistant coach," said Curry. "Dude said he had his defensive ends out and put them through every drill in the book. He knew that Coach Bryant was behind him watching and was sure that Coach was very impressed with Dude's performance. Finally Coach Bryant said, "Dude, all those (expletive deleted) drills are fine, but when are you going to let them play football?"

Curry's fascination with drills came naturally. He was an offensive lineman (a two-time Super Bowl champion center) and his first coaching jobs were with the offensive line. "The offensive line is more of a drill position," he explained. "That's why you see the offensive linemen coming out early and staying late. They have to go through so many drills to learn their techniques. But split ends and cornerbacks don't need those drills."

Now Curry's practices are structured to find football players. After normal opening routines (specialty workouts and stretching exercises), Bama spring drills are an evolu-

tionary process. There's one-on-one coaching, then small group work, then larger group work, then offense vs. defense in small groups, progressing to larger and larger groups of offense against defense, until finally it's football: eleven against eleven. And all along there's an element of the kicking game, with more kicking at the end of practice.

That's not to say that drills aren't a part of the practice routine. And Curry's staff has brought in some very innovative ones, most of them combining more than one element of football (such as linemen working on pass blocking, and at the end of the footwork having to find and fall on a simulated fumble; or a drill which combines the passing game, downfield blocking, and kick coverage).

Alabama practice under Bill Curry got under way March 21 and will continue through the A-Day Game in Birmingham's Legion Field April 25. (Because of construction at Bryant-Denny Stadium the Tide will be unable to have any practices or the annual spring game at the Tuscaloosa stadium.)

How did he feel going out onto the Alabama practice field as Alabama's head football coach? "It was exciting to be on this field," he said. "I felt a strong sense of commitment to the Alabama family and the Alabama tradition. I had contemplated what it would be like for a long time. I wondered if it would be good or bad or scary. It was great."

There was a good reason for the Saturday start. "NCAA rules won't let you have football meetings with your players until you begin practice," said Curry. "By starting on Saturday we were able to have a long meeting with the players, getting things like how 'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '87

Bill Curry is now on the field as well as on the job as Alabama's new head football coach. Curry moves from drill to drill overseeing Crimson Tide spring training.

Barry Fikes Photo

we huddle and break and how we do a snap count so we would be organized when we hit the field."

The general schedule is for the Tide to practice Monday, Wednesday, either Thursday or Friday, and Saturday. (An exception is that Tiders will get the entire Easter weekend off.) Although there will be some scrimmage work every day, Wednesdays and Saturdays are the primary scrimmage days. Practices are closed to the public.

Curry and his staff have developed a two-pronged plan for this spring. Because they have so little knowledge of the football skills of Tide players, the first priority is evaluation. "Right now our players are just a matrix of statistics to us," he said prior to the start of practice. "We know their heights, weights and speeds. But we don't know how they play football. We've seen them in the off-season program, we've gotten to know them, we've talked to them about their goals and their objectives and we know how they think. But you can't evaluate a football player unless you see him play football. We need to see them hit."

Curry is also determined that places will be found for the 22 best hitters to have starting jobs.

The second priority is to teach the fundamentals of football—blocking and tackling. The offense will get work on ball protection, the kicking teams on field position, and everyone on the mental aspects of football, avoiding breakdowns and penalties.

"Our system is to throw a lot of stuff at them immediately," said Curry. In the early going he said he had been surprised at the number who were able to assimilate a great deal, but that there were also those with a long way to go. He was happy with enthusiasm, but otherwise far from satisfied—as would be expected in the early days of almost any spring practice.

"We should get a little more crisp as we go along," he said. "Late in the practices the big guys are getting a little fatigued, which results in breakdowns. But our big guys will be in shape. We'll take care of fatigue with conditioning."

Although it is important that a quarterback be found during spring drills—making that search the most discussed by Tide followers—it is critical that defensive players are uncovered. Among Bama losses to graduation are all three down linemen, three defensive backs and two linebackers. And those weren't just bodies. They included consensus All-America Cornelius Bennett and All-Southeastern Conference performers Curt Jarvis, Freddie Robinson and Wayne Davis.

APRIL '87/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide



The Alabama defense was decimated by graduation, but the Tide returns a quality safetyman in upcoming junior Kermitt Kendricks.

Barry Fikes Photo

Curry has said that "No position is safe," but the early changes were primarily moving offensive performers to defense. The most talked about were those of tailback Gene Jelks to cornerback, a move that was made with not only Jelks' consent, but also his advice, and starting guard Larry Rose to noseguard. (Ironically, the two upcoming juniors were teammates at Gadsden's Emma Sansom High School.) Jelks knows that Bobby Humphrey is a tough hombre to try to move out, and he also knows that there should be a place for Bama's best athlete. (Jelks earned that designation on the basis of a "Superstars" competition in which strength, speed and agility are measured at the end of the off-season program.) In Bama's first practice Jelks turned in a couple of interceptions, and the vision of offensive linemen trying to corral him was indicative that Jelks could be an impact player in the secondary.

Also moving from tailback to cornerback is John Cassimus. Another offense-to-defense

switch before drills even got under way was that of freshman John Stewart from fullback to inside linebacker. Stewart, a 6-0, 248-pounder, had been viewed by some as being the big fullback the Tide has not had in a few years. However, he played very well at linebacker for TMI in a prep school semester last fall and was one of the standouts in early Bama spring work.

Players aren't the only changes on defense. Assistant Head Coach for Defense Don Lindsey has been polishing a defensive scheme for years. In Bama's new system the Tide's alignment will closely resemble the odd man front of previous years in many instances. But it will also be completely different from time-to-time as men switch from strongside to weakside. Even the names have been changed to give every position its own designation. Outside linebackers are now Strike (strongside) and Bandit (weakside), down linemen Tackle (strongside), Nose (noseguard) and End (weakside), inside linebackers Mike (strongside) and Will (weakside), strong safety is Rover, strongside cornerback is Hit, while weakside cornerback is corner and safety is safety.

Only two fulltime returning starters were taking part in early drills, inside linebacker Greg Gilbert and safety Kermit Kendrick. However, outside linebacker Randy Rockwell was expected to be available for the last half of spring training. And outside linebackers Derrick Thomas, George Bethune and Phillip Brown are experienced. Craig Epps was moved from outside linebacker to an inside spot. Also with experience are inside linebackers Van Davis and Willie Shephard.

One former outside linebacker has been shifted to a down lineman position, Lydell Mitchell (now up to 6-3, 237) positioned at end with Anthony Smith. Rose and Willie Wyatt should battle at noseguard. At tackle Tommy Cole is the only experienced performer as Derrick Rushton is recovering from injury.

Cornerback John Mangum and strong safety Lee Ozmint saw enough action last year as freshmen to letter, although most of their play was on the specialty teams. Nevertheless, they are among the leading candidates for secondary spots. Jelks will challenge Mangum at corner, but Ozmint's primary competition will come from untested players, at least until Rory Turner (recovering from last fall knee surgery) makes it back to the lineup. Slightly tested Shannon Felder and Todd Richardson are candidates at the other cornerback spot. (Vernon Wilkinson, who started at that spot for two years before being seriously injured in an automobile ac-

incident last spring, has been given the physical okay to participate in drills, but was not involved in early contact work. If he is able to return and play next fall he would be a rare sixth-year senior.) Steve Wilson is a capable backup to Kendrick at free safety.

No one, least of all Curry, expected an early settlement at the quarterback position. Junior David Smith (number two, though used almost not at all the past two years) started out number one, followed by junior Vince Sutton (co-number one in 1984, a three-play performer in 1985 and redshirted last year). It's impossible to work more than two or three quarterbacks in practice because there aren't enough players available at other positions to work with them, but also trying to take snaps were junior Gene Newberry and redshirted freshmen Jeff Dunn, Gary Hollingsworth and Billy Ray.

The graduated Mike Shula was Bama's starter (and went most of the way) in the Tide's last 27 games. Although clutch passes were particularly crucial in 1985's 9-2-1 season, the pass was used almost not at all in the 9-3 campaign last year. The Tide ranked last in the SEC in passing, averaging just 130.1 yards per game.

On the other hand, the Tide ranked first in rushing offense by averaging 263.9 yards per game. Although Jelks has been shifted to defense, Alabama returns plenty of rushing strength at the tailback position, primarily in the form of Humphrey. The junior-to-be had 236 carries for 1,471 yards (both school records), including a Tide record of 284 yards against Mississippi State. He also had a Bama best 17 touchdowns. In early work David Casteal (who had a very strong performance against Florida when Jelks was injured last year), Kerry Goode (who was on his way to being all-everything before injured in 1984) and Murry Hill also looked impressive.

Although Stewart won't bring his bulk to the fullback spot, the Tide has been relatively efficient from that spot with smaller men. Upcoming seniors Doug Allen and Bo Wright return as the one-two men from last year.

Alabama also lost both starting wide receivers from last year, Al Bell and Greg Richardson graduating to almost certain professional careers. One experienced hand, senior Clay Whitehurst, is missing spring football to play baseball, leaving the battle at split end primarily between senior Darryl Thomas and sophomore Marco Battle, while senior Greg Payne and redshirted freshman Lamonde Russell are the leaders at flanker.

Tight end is somewhat as fullback for the Tide in that there is quality experience, but



Bobby Humphrey, an Alabama record-setter as a sophomore, is a leading returnee for the Crimson Tide offense.

Barry Fikes Photo

not much weight. Junior Howard Cross went from barely over 200 to around 250 last year, and has settled in at around 230. He was one of the few Tiders Curry mentioned as having been aware of from his film study. "His blocking is what you would hope for on a consistent basis," said the head coach of Cross. He's backed by flashy (though lightweight at 213) Angelo Stafford and very slightly experienced Charlie Abrams (another 230-pounder).

It has often been noted that the difference between good teams and great teams is usually offensive linemen. Alabama has one who has indicated greatness for three years in right guard Bill Condon. However, Condon was not taking part in early drills as he recovered from an unusual injury. A gang of thugs attacked and stabbed him as he left a concert in Birmingham several weeks ago.

With Condon out and Rose shifted to defense, Bama Assistant Coach Jim Fuller has a massive rebuilding job to do in the offensive front. Speaking of massive, the only other returning starter is right tackle Joe King. King, a 6-7, 309-pound junior, was suspended for an undisclosed rules violation prior to the Sun Bowl at the end of last season but has been reinstated into his old number one spot.

The front also needs replacements for Ja-

cobs Award winner Wes Neighbors at center and tackle Hoss Johnson. Jeff Bentley, who has played every position on the front five during his career at Alabama, got the early nod at center, ahead of last year's number two Mike Zuga. With Condon out, a redshirted freshman who had been recruited as a center, Roger Shultz, battled senior Mike Burkett at right guard. Andy Anderson, who played very well in place of Rose at Florida last fall, and freshman Trent Patterson were at Rose's old left guard spot. John Fruhrogen, who has yet to live up to his considerable potential, goes in at number one at left tackle.

Although the kicking game will get considerable attention throughout the spring, it will be difficult to ascertain leaders in the various components. Butch Lewis has apparently not recovered enough from knee injuries to take part in fullscale practices, but can make the long snaps (as he did in 1984 and 1985). Larry Abney returns as the holder. Alan Ward, the former prep All-America who was redshirted as the incomparable Van Tiffin played out his career last year, is expected to have the placekicking job at least through the spring. Punter Chris Mohr has been excused from spring drills to participate with the golf team. Most of the coverage and return spots will be determined on the basis of speed.

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '87

1987 Alabama Spring Football Roster

(Subject To Change)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown
Larry Abney	FL	5-10	188	Sr.	3L	Slidell, La.	Rip Mitchell	FL	6-0	180	Fr.	RS	Mobile
Charlie Abrams	TE	6-4	230	So.	1L	Demopolis	Chris Mohr	P	6-4	195	Jr.	2L	Thomson, Ga.
Doug Allen	FB	5-9	200	Sr.	2L	Cantonment, Fla.	Ward Murphy	ILB	5-11	212	So.	Sq	Lake Forest, Ill.
Andy Anderson	LG	6-5	267	So.	1L	Lithia Springs, Ga.	Gene Newberry	QB	6-3	205	Jr.	Sq	Blytheville, Ark.
Calvin Ayers	CB	5-10	170	So.	Sq	Decatur	Lee Ozmint	SS	6-5	201	So.	1L	Anderson, S.C.
Marco Battle	SE	6-0	170	So.	Sq	Phenix City	Butch Parris	C	6-1	197	So.	Sq	Anniston
Scott Bell	RT	6-5	274	Jr.	Sq	Excel	Trent Patterson	LG	5-11	297	Fr.	Tr	Syracuse, N.Y.
Bernard Bennett	TE	6-0	221	So.	Sq	Tampa, Fla.	Brian Payne	ILB	6-0	207	Fr.	RS	Enterprise
Jeff Bentley	C	6-5	273	Sr.	1L	Alabaster	Greg Payne	FL	6-3	192	Sr.	2L	Montgomery
George Bethune	OLB	6-5	218	Jr.	1L	Ft. Walton Beach	Kevin Penny	LT	6-6	260	Fr.	RS	Hazel Green
Scott Blankenship	C	6-1	222	Jr.	Sq	Muscle Shoals	Mike Piver	OLB	6-4	199	Fr.	RS	Chapel Hill, N.C.
Phillip Brown	OLB	6-3	221	Sr.	2L	Birmingham	Billy Ray	QB	6-4	198	Fr.	RS	Atlanta
Tommy Browning	SE	5-10	161	Jr.	Sq	Mobile	Todd Richardson	CB	5-10	163	Jr.	1L	Syracuse, N.Y.
Mike Burkett	RG	6-0	234	Sr.	Sq	Gardendale	Chris Robinette	C	6-3	237	Fr.	RS	Enterprise
Danny Cash	LT	6-5	270	So.	Sq	Spartanburg, S.C.	Carlos Robinson	FB	5-11	200	Sr.	1L	Enterprise
John Cassimus	CB	5-11	185	So.	Sq	Birmingham	Lee Rockwell	SS	6-3	204	Fr.	RS	Daphne
David Casteal	RB	6-0	198	Jr.	1L	Eglin AFB, Fla.	Randy Rockwell	OLB	6-3	207	Sr.	3L	Daphne
Terrell Chatman	LT	6-4	287	Fr.	RS	Childersburg	Larry Rose	NG	6-4	273	Jr.	2L	Gadsden
Steve Clonts	C	6-3	205	So.	Sq	Rome, Ga.	Derrick Rushton	DT	6-3	246	So.	1L	Mobile
Tommy Cole	DT	6-2	250	Jr.	2L	Jasper	Lamonde Russell	FL	6-1	191	Fr.	RS	Oneonta
Bill Condon	RG	6-3	265	Sr.	3L	Mobile	Jimbo Salem	OLB	5-11	195	So.	Sq	Birmingham
Earlando Courtney	SE	6-2	194	Sr.	1L	Thomasville	Troy Secrist	SE	5-11	168	Jr.	Sq	Pensacola, Fla.
Howard Cross	TE	6-6	232	Jr.	2L	New Hope	Wayne Shaw	FB	6-0	204	So.	Sq	Tullahoma, Tenn.
John Davis	SS	5-11	166	So.	Sq	Dallas	Willie Shephard	ILB	6-2	209	Jr.	2L	Prichard
Vantriese Davis	ILB	5-11	207	So.	1L	Phenix City	Roger Shultz	RG	6-2	250	Fr.	RS	Atlanta
Joe Demos	LG	6-2	251	So.	Tr	Clearwater, Fla.	Anthony Smith	DE	6-5	247	Jr.	2L	Elizabeth City, N.C.
Jeff Dunn	QB	6-1	200	Fr.	RS	Greensboro, N.C.	Bill Smith	P	6-0	204	So.	Sq	Russellville
Craig Epps	ILB	6-4	220	Sr.	3L	Miami	David Smith	QB	6-0	180	Jr.	1L	Gadsden
Shannon Felder	CB	5-11	178	Jr.	1L	Willis, Texas	Mike Smith	CB	5-11	169	Fr.	RS	Gainesville, Fla.
Tim Flowers	FB	6-1	190	Fr.	RS	Perdido	Angelo Stafford	TE	6-6	213	Sr.	1L	Prichard
Bruce Foster	RT	6-3	271	So.	Sq	Bessemer	Robert Stewart	ILB	6-0	248	Fr.	Tr	Columbia
John Fruhmorgen	LT	6-6	290	Jr.	1L	Tampa, Fla.	Vince Strickland	DE	6-6	266	Fr.	RS	Atlanta
Greg Gilbert	ILB	6-2	205	Jr.	2L	Decatur	Vince Sutton	QB	6-2	204	Jr.	1L	LaGrange, Ga.
Kerry Goode	RB	6-1	200	Sr.	2L	Town Creek	Darryl Thomas	SE	6-1	183	Sr.	Sq	Victoria, Texas
Spencer Hammond	OLB	6-2	215	Fr.	RS	Rome, Ga.	Derrick Thomas	OLB	6-4	222	Jr.	2L	Miami
Murry Hill	RB	5-7	169	Jr.	Sq	Atmore	Rory Turner	SS	6-3	196	Jr.	2L	Atlanta
Byron Holdbrooks	DT	6-5	269	Fr.	RS	Haleyville	Steve Turner	DT	6-4	242	So.	Sq	Bessemer
Gary Hollingsworth	QB	6-4	179	Fr.	RS	Hamilton	Randy Wagner	ILB	5-9	196	Fr.	RS	Nashville
Bobby Humphrey	RB	6-1	187	Jr.	2L	Birmingham	Alan Ward	PK	6-1	182	Fr.	RS	Pensacola
Gene Jelks	CB	5-11	174	Jr.	2L	Gadsden	Lorenzo Ward	S	6-4	181	Fr.	RS	Greensboro
Kermit Kendrick	S	6-2	200	Jr.	2L	Meridian, Miss.	T.J. Weist	FL	6-3	168	Fr.	RS	Bay City, Mich.
Greg Kiker	RT	6-3	254	Fr.	RS	Phenix City	Darryl Whetstone	NG	6-4	256	Jr.	Sq	Montgomery
Joe King	RT	6-7	309	Jr.	2L	Gadsden	Clay Whitehurst	FL	6-1	180	Sr.	3L	Nashville
David Lenoir	DE	6-5	244	Fr.	RS	Memphis	Vernon Wilkinson	CB	6-1	186	Sr.	2L	Enterprise
Butch Lewis	C	6-3	247	Sr.	1L	Mobile	Steve Wilson	S	6-1	183	Jr.	2L	Brundidge
Alan Lopez	PK	5-10	173	Sr.	Sq	Dothan	Woody Wilson	ILB	6-1	190	So.	Sq	Shawnee, Okla.
William Lutz	TE	6-1	204	Jr.	Sq	Tuscaloosa	Jetey Wise	OLB	6-0	181	Fr.	RS	Elba
John Mangum	CB	5-11	174	So.	1L	Magee, Miss.	Bo Wright	FB	6-1	209	Sr.	2L	Prichard
Darrell Martin	ILB	6-1	218	Jr.	Sq	Blountsville	Willie Wyatt	NG	6-1	255	So.	1L	Gardendale
Lydell Mitchell	DE	6-3	237	Sr.	2L	Prichard	Mike Zuga	C	6-2	236	So.	Sq	Newnan, Ga.

Randy Rockwell:

He Doesn't Like The Sidelines

by Kirk McNair

No problem with the size of his heart, but his knee is on the mend

It has been said that Randy Rockwell is all heart on the football field. It would be nice if that were true. Unfortunately, Rockwell is also flesh and bone and cartilage and ligament. The total on his 6-3 frame is about 200 pounds, considerable except that he plays a game in which it is not uncommon for him to be among the smallest men on the field. And he plays a position, outside linebacker, that is often manned by players 40 or more pounds heavier.

Rockwell is currently recovering from his second knee injury and was expected to be limited in the work he could do this spring. Last year he missed all of spring work because of an injury to the same knee. Nevertheless, he hopes to be able to take part in spring football drills to some extent for at least two reasons. From a team standpoint, "We lost so many seniors on defense that we're going to need some leadership out there," said the upcoming fifth-year senior. From a personal standpoint, "There are going to be a lot of guys fighting for positions this spring. We're going to be under a new coaching staff and every position is up for grabs," he pointed out.

Rockwell isn't even sure which position he'll be playing when he gets back to fulltime work. "I met with Coach Curry and he said he would probably try everyone at two or three positions during the evaluation period," Rockwell said. "He mentioned bandit (the weakside outside linebacker spot he has played the past three years), rover (strong safety) and inside linebacker as places I might be tried."

The right knee that has plagued Rockwell was first injured when he was a sophomore in Baton Rouge in 1985, a non-contact injury. "I just planted (my foot) in the grass. No one was around me. And it popped. It was a partially-frayed anterior cruciate ligament."

The decision to operate was postponed,

Randy Rockwell has had an excellent Alabama football career owing in no small part to having regularly been in the right place at the right time. He hopes that he's back on the football field soon.

Barry Fikes Photo

but when the knee locked a week later Rockwell went under the knife and his season ended. He missed the Southern Miss and Auburn wins that ended the regular season and the Aloha Bowl victory over Southern Cal. Those were the first games he had missed since seeing his first action against Boston College to open the 1984 season.

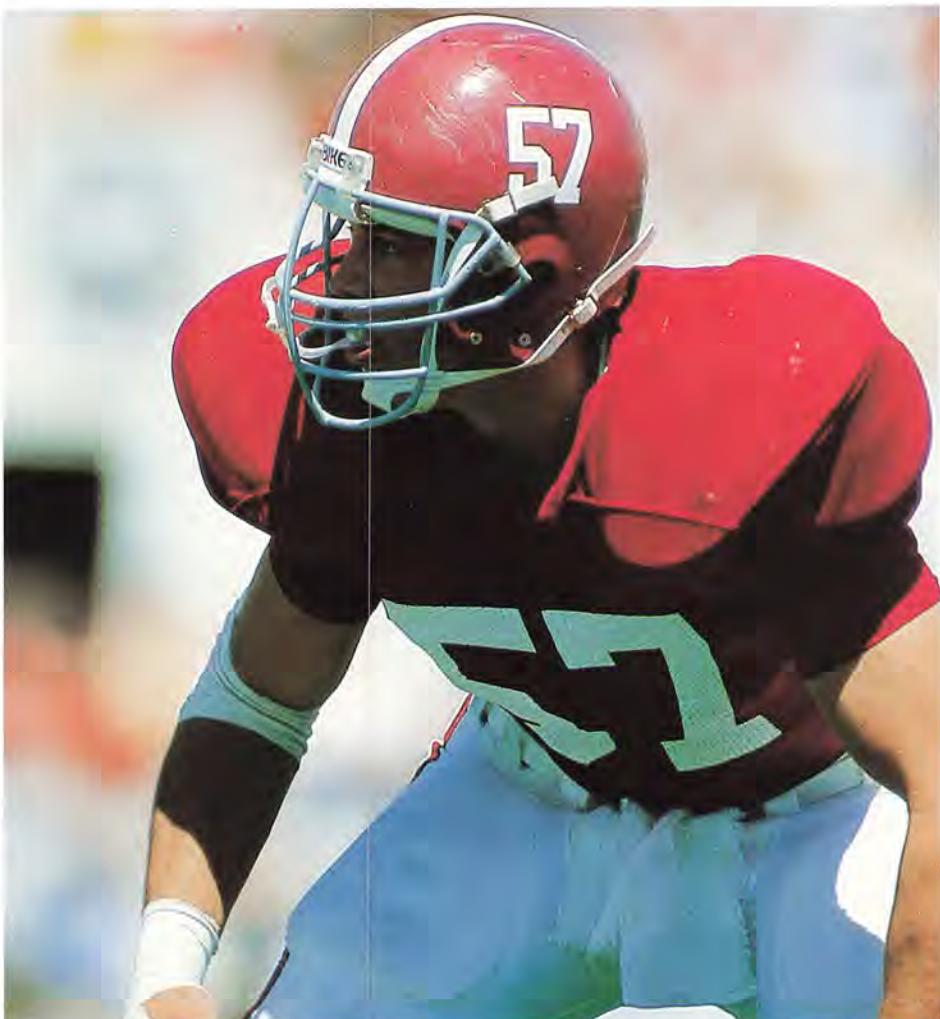
Rockwell was on the sidelines last spring, but after a summer of rehabilitation in Tuscaloosa was back in harness (actually a knee brace) when Bama began preparation for the Kickoff Classic against Ohio State last August. "The worst part about it was the cramping in my hamstring and calf during three-a-days," he said. "That and getting used to the brace (which he wears for every practice and game) and getting over the mental part of having had a knee injury." But he felt he was near 100 percent until following the third game of the season. At a Tuesday practice he

felt another pop.

"I couldn't play against Florida, but I was able to play off-and-on the rest of the season," he said. "I never felt I was able to give everything, but being able to play a little bit was better than sitting on the sidelines." He didn't miss any more games, but after the Sun Bowl victory over Washington it was back to the operating table.

"We were afraid they were going to have to cut me open again, but in an arthroscopic examination it was determined that the surgery could be done by arthroscope, too," said Randy. "It was just a matter of them cleaning up the ligament that was torn earlier, cleaning up a little cartilage and taking out a little fat pad under my knee. About all there was too it was cleaning out my knee. The doctor told me I'd be on crutches seven to ten days."

However, while arthroscopic surgery was



relatively good news, there was also bad news. "The knee got infected," said Randy, "and I ended up on crutches nearly two months. I also lost weight and strength. After thinking it wasn't going to be too bad, it was a pretty rough road."

Perhaps the most interested physician at both of Rockwell's operations was Dr. L.E. Rockwell of Daphne, a general practitioner and Randy's father. "He keeps up with it," said Randy of his father. "I know he's worried about it, but the knee feels great now."

One of the worst things about his recovery is that his weight fell from last year's playing weight of 210 to 193. His goal is "to at least get over 205" by the fall.

Weight, or lack thereof, has been a major concern for Rockwell since he arrived at Bama in the fall of 1983 as a 192-pound defensive end out of Fairhope High School. Although he had a good high school career, he was not considered one of the state's super stars.

He was redshirted his first year, but began to make his move in spring training, winning the "Jerry Duncan I Like To Practice" Award. The next fall he saw action in 11 games and finished as Bama's seventh-leading tackler with 26 primary hits and 25 assists, four of his tackles coming behind the line. He also recovered a fumble and broke up two passes. His best game came in the Tide's worst loss, the 16-6 setback at the hands of Bill Curry's Georgia Tech team, when he made eight tackles. He played that first campaign at 189 pounds.

Rockwell became a full-fledged starter as a sophomore in 1985. His 54 tackles (46 primary stops, four for losses) ranked him sixth on the team (despite missing the last two and a half games of the year with his knee injury). He also broke up three passes and caused two fumbles that season. He was named defensive player of the game for his nine-tackle performance in Bama's 40-20 win over Vanderbilt. He had moved up to about 200 pounds.

Despite his limited role last year Rockwell finished seventh in Alabama tackles with 40 (26 solo), seven of them for lost yardage. His performance in the opener against Ohio State earned him defensive player of the game laurels as he turned in seven tackles and caused a fumble. Late in the year against Temple he had an eight-tackle performance that included two quarterback sacks.

Rockwell, who will earn his degree in business at the conclusion of next season, has come concerns about the upcoming season beyond his own physical recuperation.

APRIL '87/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

"No one is really sure what kind of defensive scheme we'll have," said Rockwell. "Coach Lindsey (assistant head coach for defense, Don Lindsey) says that it's more of a system than a scheme. The coaches will see where we fit into the system, see what we can do, in the first half of spring training, then implement the system we'll use next fall in the second half of the spring."

Rockwell, like almost all Tiders, will have a new position coach this year. And that is really nothing new. When he came to Alabama the outside linebacker coach was Mike Dubose. Following Bama's infamous 5-6 1984 season Ray Perkins made some adjustments in his coaching staff and Sylvester Croom took over the outside linebackers. When Bill Curry arrived on the scene with his former Georgia Tech staff he brought Keith Colson to instruct the weakside outside linebackers and strong safeties. However, shortly after the completion of recruiting Colson announced his resignation. Now Rockwell's coach is volunteer assistant John Thompson, who came to Bama from Northwestern State in Louisiana.

Rockwell recognizes that the defense, which was decimated by graduation, has a big challenge. "It's kind of like our defense the year that Cornelius (Bennett) and Curt (Jarvis) and all those guys were playing as freshmen," he said. "I think we're going to be real young again, and you can't teach experience."

"I think we're going to have to count on some of the freshmen who are coming in being able to help out next fall, but we've got to try to find the people who can play this spring. That's always the way it is."

Rockwell thinks the linebacker corps will be reasonably strong. "I think we've got eight or nine who have played over the last couple of years," he said. "In fact, I guess it was beneficial when I got hurt and when Cornelius got hurt in that we had people like Derrick Thomas and George Bethune step in and prove they could play. That helps us this year."

Rockwell's spring status is on a day-to-day basis. Since getting off crutches he has been on a regimen of exercises and weight work. And he knows what his summer will be like, the same as it has every year since following his redshirt freshman season. "I went home the first summer, but since then I've always stayed in Tuscaloosa," he said. "I'll do that again this year, working out in our facilities and maybe taking a couple of classes."

And when fall workouts roll around, don't be surprised to see Randy Rockwell once again among the leaders of the Bama defense.



Big Al

This hand-painted, ceramic **Big Al** is sure to be a hit with any Bama fan! Standing a foot high and mounted on a wooden base, Big Al is a colorful addition to your home or office.

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Total	\$	

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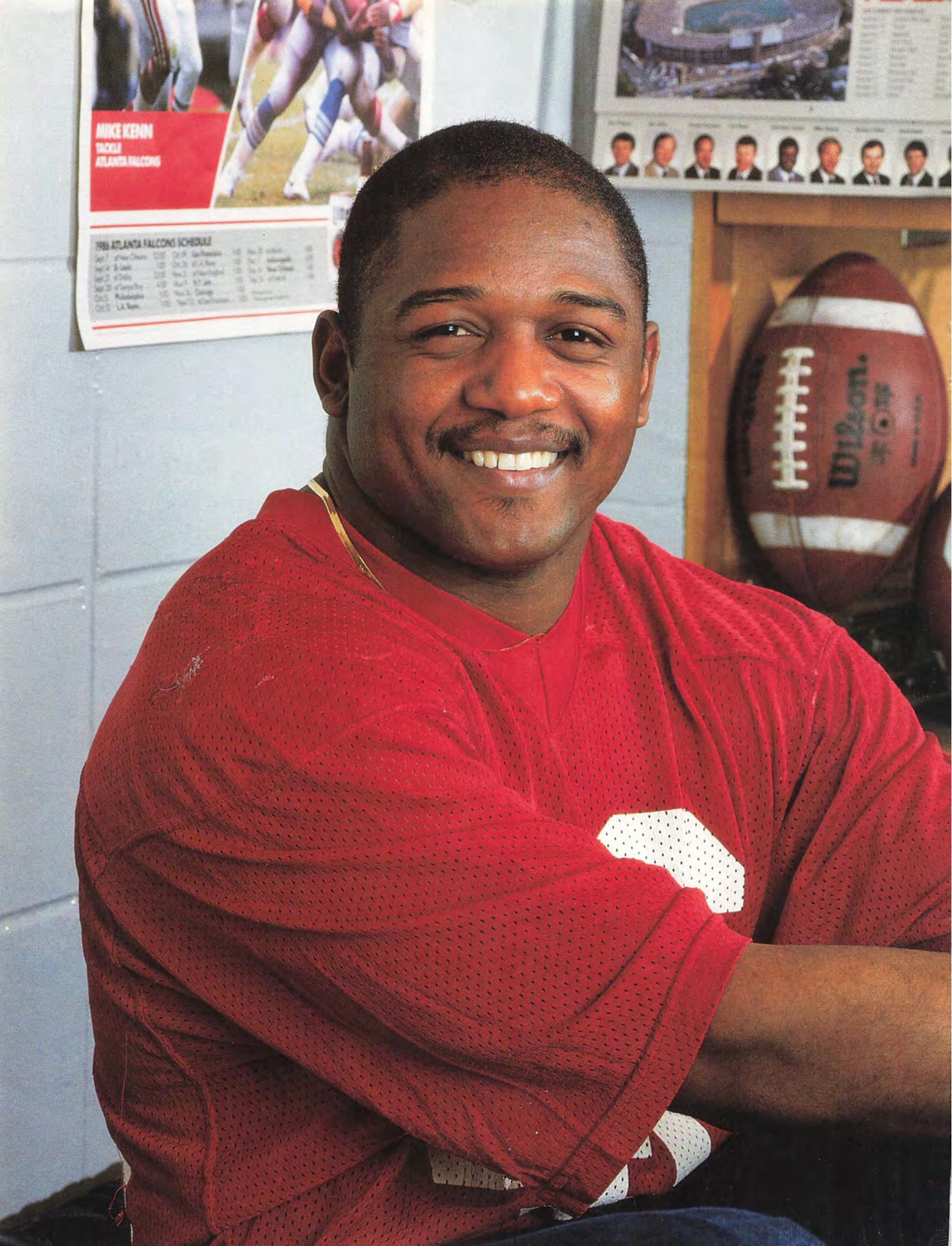
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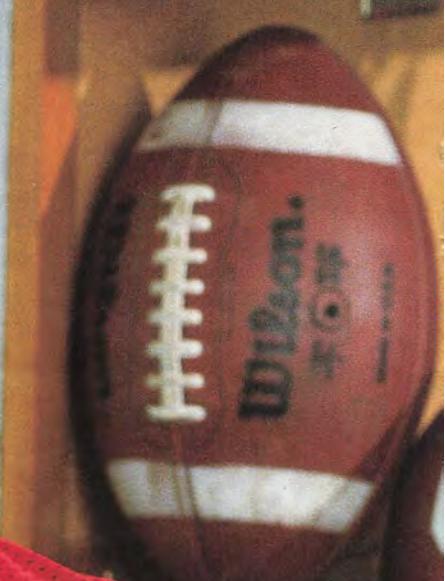
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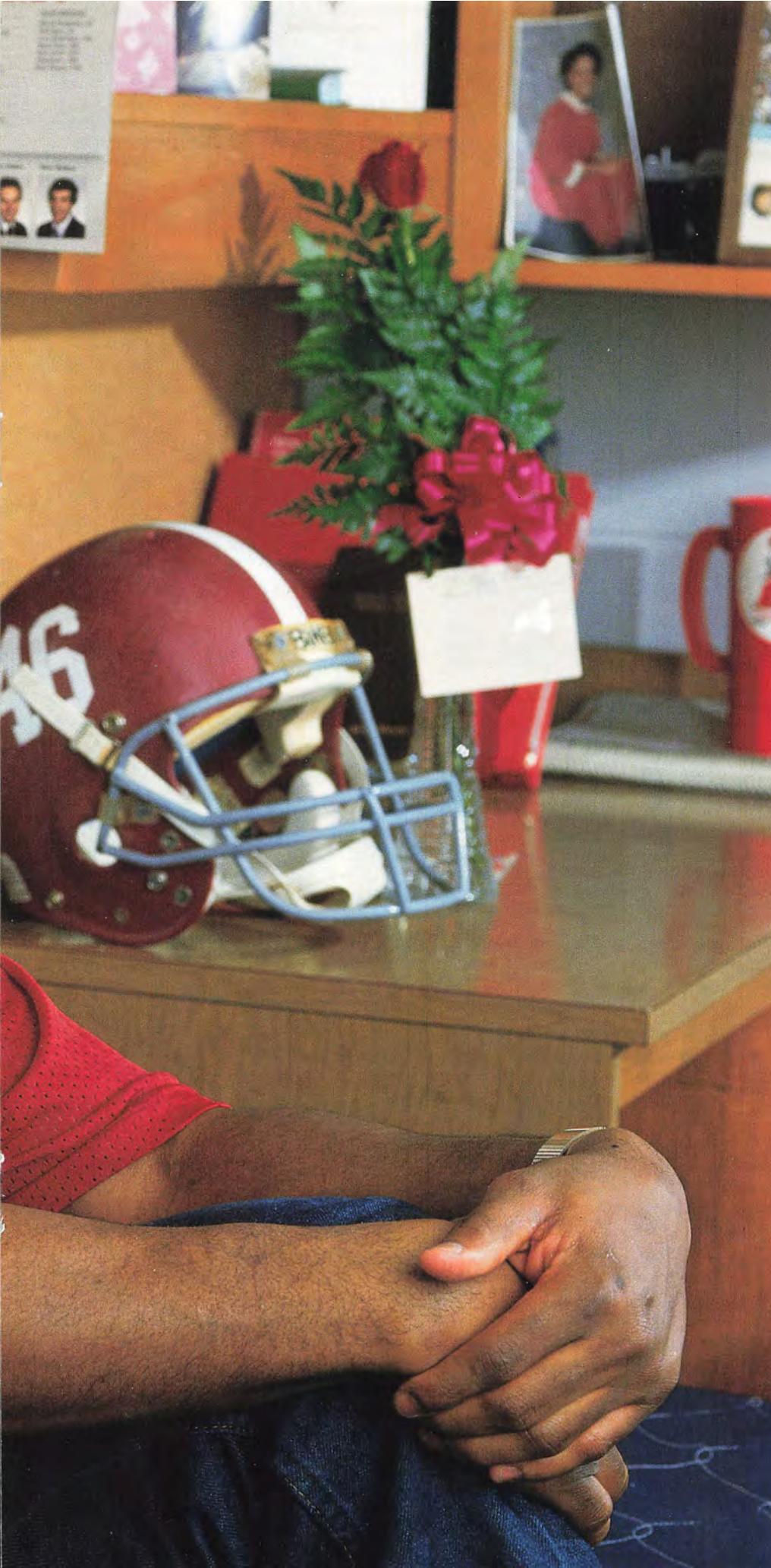


MIKE KENN
TACKLE
ATLANTA FALCONS

1991 ATLANTA FALCONS SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	at Green Bay	12:30	1989	San Francisco
Sept. 14	at Detroit	1:30	1989	Seattle
Sept. 21	at Dallas	1:30	1989	Philadelphia
Sept. 28	at New Orleans	1:30	1989	AT&T
Oct. 5	Philadelphia	1:30	1989	Seattle
Oct. 12	at Los Angeles	1:30	1989	Philadelphia
Oct. 19	Los Angeles	1:30	1989	Seattle





Doug Allen:

Pint-Sized Fullback Gets The Job Done

by Tommy Deas

Desire and effort have made Doug Allen a winning fullback

Don't look in your Webster's dictionary expecting to find a picture of Doug Allen next to the word fullback.

Though he has played that position at Alabama for the last two years, Allen isn't your prototype fullback. At 5-9 and 200 pounds soaking wet, Allen looks more like a running back or defensive back. Without his broad shoulders, he might even pass for a kicker.

If you flip a few pages back to words like desire or effort, though, you might see a likeness of the Tide's senior fullback. Not blessed with fullback size, Allen does his best to make up for it by churning his legs with brutish force until he hears the referee's whistle. Second effort is his forte.

"My size," Allen says, "is no excuse for not getting the job done. I've got 10 other guys out there depending on me to get my job done. I'm just a guy who has a great desire to win."

Of course, it takes a little convincing to make Allen realize he is not a monstrous behemoth in the classic fullback mode, one of those guys with a Mack truck body and a bulldozer attitude.

Hear the words of Crimson Tide offensive line coach Jim Fuller, who has watched Allen give aid and support to his trench warriors for the last two years: "To him, he's 6-3 or 6-4

Although Bama's Doug Allen may not be the prototype fullback insofar as size, no one is likely to kick sand in his face either. Allen is looking forward to his senior season.

Barry Fikes Photo

and weighs 220. He doesn't know any different.

"Doug is one of those who is going to give you every ounce in his body on every play, every time he is on the field. Desire and effort can make up for those things many of us lack in talent, and that's the kind of guy Doug is."

Playing fullback in an offense that is heavy on the run like Alabama's, especially a sweep-oriented attack that relies heavily on the lead block of the fullback to spring big plays, wasn't exactly what Allen had in mind when he signed with former Coach Ray Perkins.

"I came in expecting to play as a freshman, but on defense," said Allen, who was an all-state cornerback his senior year at Tate High School in Cantonment, Florida, where he also rushed for 11 touchdowns and almost 700 yards as a senior. "I thought I'd be a defensive back here. I did play mainly offense my senior year, and the day before we went in pads when I got here, I was switched to halfback."

"That was really because I was behind on my defense. I moved up the depth chart and by the third game, against Southwest Louisiana, I started playing."

Allen's playing time in the backfield as a freshman can be directly traced to the season-opener of the 1984 year, when Kerry Goode went down for the year in the third quarter against Boston College after amassing nearly 300 yards of total offense. With Goode gone and workhorse Paul Ott Carruth left as the only seasoned tailback in the Tide backfield, a glaring weakness appeared.

Without Goode, the Tide was without true breakaway speed in the backfield. Enter Allen, who runs 40 yards in 4.5 seconds.

"Kerry was a great running back," Allen said, "and it was really unfortunate that he suffered a knee injury. Me being a freshman, I was just thankful for the opportunity to play."

But Allen's good fortune was not shared by the team. Alabama finished 5-6, its first losing season and first year not capped by a bowl game appearance in over 20 years. It was a time for Allen and those around him to be tested.

"We lost a lot of games we were in until the fourth quarter," Allen recalls. "Tennessee, Boston College, Georgia, LSU, Vanderbilt; we had a chance to win all those games. To me, the only team to really beat us that year was Georgia Tech."

"There was a feeling that a lot of people lost faith in us, that feeling was there, but we still had a lot of fans with us. I remember a lot of people who were there with us and behind us every game. I can look back when I see



Alabama's running game is rightfully thought of in terms of tailback performance, but Tide fullback Doug Allen picks up his share of yardage as a runner and receiver.

Barry Fikes Photo

guys are down now and things aren't going well and say I went through that 5-6 season and tell them they don't want to go through one like that.

"I didn't expect to go through a losing season when I came to Alabama, but I guess it taught me to work even harder and gave me even more of a desire to win."

Yes, growing up in northern Florida had given Allen an idea of what to expect with the Tide, but he really wasn't as well-versed in Alabama tradition as most football-oriented youngsters.

"To tell the truth," Allen says, "I had never watched much college football. On Saturdays my teams were always playing in little league and I didn't watch much college ball until my senior year of high school."

"I basically knew where I was going all along. I committed early, because I had come up here to summer football camp and I really liked it. I knew from there I was coming here if I could."

On the other hand, Allen really never expected to be paving the way for the likes of

All-America tailback Bobby Humphrey, reserve Gene Jelks and Goode as a fullback. (And he'd probably faint if he knew that men his size sometimes ended up as offensive tackles at Alabama in the 1960s.)

"My sophomore year I was still at halfback to begin with," he remembers. "Prior to the (season-opening) Georgia game Craig Turner and Mike Bobo (the Tide's top two fullbacks) had some injuries and were questionable. They moved me to fullback, but I thought I was being moved with the intention of being moved back later."

On that count, Allen is still waiting.

While Turner got the bulk of carries at fullback that year as the Tide passed its way to a 9-2-1 mark, Allen began to lay the groundwork for the 1986 season, where he would take over as the top man in the fullback depth chart. After 87 yards at tailback as a freshman, Allen played in 10 games and totaled just 107 yards his sophomore year.

"Craig," he remembers, "did most of the running. We passed a lot that year and I think they had some questions about my pass-blocking ability."

Still, a solid spring and early fall practice earned Allen the starting job last year as a junior. In the season-opener in the Meadowlands against Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic, Allen carried the load on the Tide's first few possessions and did the job blocking the rest of the way.

Against the widebody Buckeye defense, Allen bulled his way for 43 yards with tacklers hanging on most of the way. He was third among a balanced attack of Bama rushers in total yards, but Allen had shown his size would not make him a liability in the land of football giants.

Though he missed three games with strained knee ligaments, Allen started seven of the 10 games he played in, gained 357 yards and caught 13 passes in a tailback-first offense as the Tide went 10-3. Teaming with Bo Wright, Allen gave the Tide the number one fullback team in the nation as ranked by *The Sporting News*.

So, Doug, what's the secret? How does a 5-9 lightweight pull his load at fullback, where today's linebackers have the size of yesteryear's defensive linemen with running back quickness?

"I basically try to run real low to the ground," he says with a shrug. "If you talk to some of our players, they'll tell you it is hard to get under me. Mainly, I try to hit them before they hit me."

"I really don't think about it, about how big the other guy is. I've done it so many times now, I expect myself to do the job."

Allen also did the job as a pass receiver last

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '87

year, primarily on the whoopee which is the first cousin to a draw play. He had 13 receptions for 118 yards, a respectable 9.1 average.

Fuller ranks as one of Allen's fans. "Looking at him walking around campus," Fuller says, "you wouldn't think he was a starting fullback. Doug knows his limitations, but it's surprising from the standpoint of his physical size playing fullback in a run-oriented offense like ours. But that's the only way it's a surprise. If you know Doug, it's not a surprise at all."

"His willingness to work, his habits and his will to win—all those things I know are more important than just physical size and ability when it comes to playing football. I was talking to Doug the other day about the number of snaps he played against LSU. He played 71 or 72 snaps in that game. That's phenomenal. That tells you a lot about Doug Allen."

If football has done anything for Allen, it has made him a film buff. But his kind of film isn't the kind taken in with popcorn, soda and an aisle seat. Allen's favorite movies have become those in which he is one of the stars.

"I guess I kind of amaze myself sometimes after I look at the game film," Allen says. "After I sit down and watch the film and think about the size of those guys, well, I guess it's a good feeling."

"But I've also watched film and watched myself get beat. It's bad when you see you're the cause of a play not going. That's my philosophy, to try to never be the cause of a play not being successful. Every play is designed to score, and my philosophy is to do my job well enough that if everyone else does his we score."

But Allen is more than a football philosopher. He has other interests outside the sport.

"I like to bowl," he says. "I can bowl 180 on a consistent basis. The first time I went bowling I was in Dayton, Ohio, on tour with my church choir, and one of my friends up there took us bowling."

"The first time I threw the ball, it went behind me. I didn't know if it was going to stick to my hand or not."

Aside from conquering the bowling alley, though, Allen doesn't consider himself outgoing.

"I'm what you call laid back," Allen says. "I don't go out and drink and party. I'd rather visit my girlfriend or go watch a funny movie."

Even growing up in sunny Florida didn't get Allen out among the beachcombing

APRIL '87/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

crowd. "When I was there, I never went to the beach often," he said. "When I got here, everybody was heading to the beach any time they could. I guess you don't appreciate it that much when you're down there all the time."

And along with learning there was a fullback hidden in his halfback's body, Allen says his time at Alabama has been a time of discovery.

"I've learned a lot about myself here," Allen says. "I've learned that I can take care of myself. I feel like right now I'm ready to go out into the world if I had to. College life can help you or hurt you, and you've got to take it upon yourself to learn as much as you can."

"I should graduate next spring in criminal justice. We had this guy from the FBI come talk to us at the A-Club, and that really interested me. Ten years from now, I see myself married with a family, maybe coaching or working in criminal justice."

"I'd like to play pro ball if I get a chance to, but that's such a long shot. Only a few players out of the millions who play football get that chance. It's not something you can count on."

In the short term, Allen is interested in im-

proving as a fullback to help the Crimson Tide in his senior season. Having seemingly mastered the art of power rushing without a hulk-sized body, he is now striving to improve his blocking.

"I did a lot of blocking last year," Allen said. "On the toss-sweep (Bama's bread-and-butter running play under Perkins), I mainly deliver a kickout block and pick up the safety. The safety tries to force the ball back inside and I try to keep him from doing that."

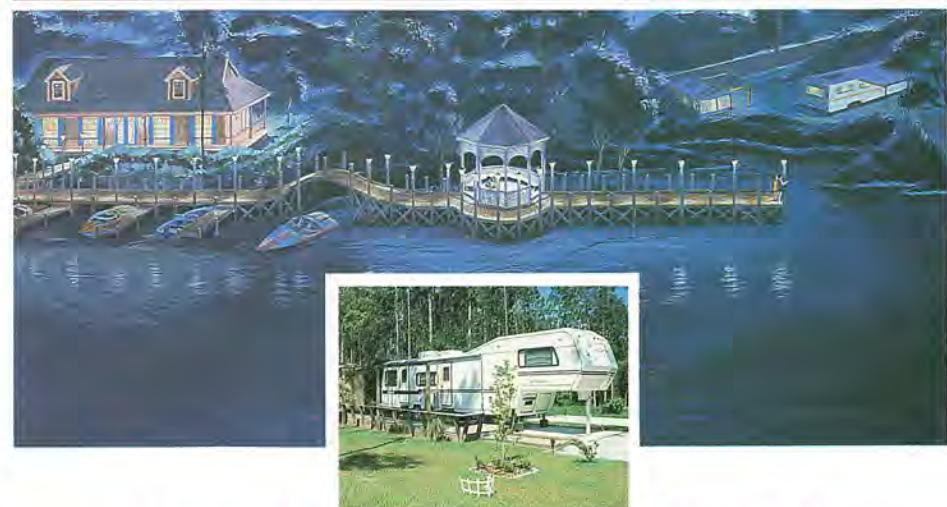
"I'd say I'm a good blocker, but not a great blocker. I could definitely improve. I mainly want to be able to do my job on every play so I don't let those other 10 guys out there down."

There is one other thing. Allen scored just one touchdown as a freshman and one as a sophomore. Though he averaged over five yards per attempt last year, he never crossed the goal line.

"Sure, I'd like to score more touchdowns," he said. "The main thing is that we win. I'd much rather the team win than have a big day when we lose."

It's that kind of attitude that has helped make Doug Allen a winning fullback.

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Scherer Relishes The Challenges

by Donald F. Staffo

Tide's new assistant head coach for offense has to find quarterbacks and winning schemes

Few questions regarding Alabama football are likely to be raised and discussed as much as the quarterback battle that got under way in spring training. Although new Head Coach Bill Curry has the final say on all football decisions, the man he will turn to for recommendations, including the projected quarterback skirmish, is William "Rip" Scherer.

Scherer, 33, is assistant head coach in charge of the offense and also has position responsibility for quarterbacks. In some systems he would be called the offensive coordinator. Basically, Scherer will develop the offensive game plan for each opponent, call the offensive plays, and prepare his quarterbacks.

He knows that Bama fans will be watching closely, perhaps even criticizing, his decisions. "The more responsibility you have, the more you will be subjected to all of that," he said. "The hot seat comes with the territory. I was hired to make the offensive decisions. That's my job. That's what I get paid to do and what I'll be evaluated on. I was aware of the responsibility when I came here, and I accepted it."

Scherer is not intimidated by his role. He looks at it as an opportunity. "A coach strives to get to the point where he can make these decisions," he said. "You know the old saying, 'If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.'"

It has been oft-noted that Mike Shula took virtually every snap from center for Alabama the past two years. Bama has stockpiled quarterbacks with six quality players vying for what is generally considered the most important position on a football team. These are not just run-of-the-mill prospects. Some, like Billy Ray, Vince Sutton, Gene Newberry and Jeff Dunn, were high school All-Americans. Gary Hollingsworth was all-state. David Smith, whose high school career was ended prematurely by injury, has been the main

backup man at Alabama the past two years. However, what they make up for in potential, they lack in experience.

Their credentials count for little anymore, according to Scherer. "They are all even right now," he said on the eve of spring training. "It's what they do from now on that counts. We've got to find a couple of guys who can get the job done. The talent is obviously there. It's our job to utilize it and channel it in the right direction.

"We'd like to come out of the spring knowing who our top two or three quarterbacks will be," he said. "If we know who the starter will be, that will be a bonus."

Regardless of who wins the job, Scherer said "Philosophically, we'll probably throw the ball a little bit more than Alabama did last year. Last year they threw the ball effectively, just not often. Having talented running backs like Bobby Humphrey and Gene Jelks probably had something to do with that, and they will certainly continue to have a great impact on our offense. Just having those kind of guys there will take the pressure off a new quarterback because he knows he doesn't have to come in and try to do it all."

Still, it is Scherer's job to find the quarterback who can make the Tide tick.

The opportunity to make such decisions is something Scherer relishes, especially since he, like most assistant coaches, has head coaching ambitions.

"Someday I would like the challenge of heading up my own program, of being totally responsible," he stated. "I'm preparing myself for that by trying to become a better coach every day."

A former quarterback himself (under Lou Holtz at William and Mary), all of Scherer's experience has been on offense, having served as a graduate assistant under Joe Paterno at Penn State before making assistant coaching stops at LSU, Virginia, Hawaii, North Carolina State, and Georgia Tech, where he was named offensive coordinator in 1981.

He regrets that he didn't get some defensive experience when he was younger. He says that it's too late in his coaching career to switch over to defense, and to do so now would involve taking a step backwards from a responsibility standpoint. Then it would be another couple of years after that to get back to the level (coordinator) he is now.

But he doesn't think that this will adversely effect him if he were ever to be considered for a head position.

"I think management and leadership capabilities are more important in that role (head coach) than having technical knowledge on both sides of the ball," he said.

Scherer said that a few years ago he was in a hurry to get to the next level professionally, but that a year away from coaching when he worked as Georgia Tech's assistant athletics director in charge of men's sports helped him regain a sense of perspective.

"That year gave me more time to spend with my family and a chance to really sit back and analyze myself," he said. "I made a commitment then to let things take care of themselves. To let things happen, rather than force them to happen."

But Scherer also realized that he missed coaching, and when Curry gave him the opportunity to be Tech's offensive coordinator, he took it. "But the difference," he said, "is that I'm no longer looking to make the next move. I'm just going to do the best job that I can as the offensive coordinator at Alabama, and if I'm still doing it 20 years from now, fine."

Scherer realizes that if he's destined to be a career assistant coach that Alabama, along with the Ohio States, Notre Dames, Penn States, and Oklahomas of the world, is the top of the line.

"The difference here, compared to most other schools, is that the expectation level is so much higher—it's national championship. That's what the players at Alabama realistically perceive as an attainable goal. Now we were trying to build toward that at Georgia Tech, and a lot of other schools might say that, but here it has been done and is a realistic goal year in and year out."

Scherer said it was a similar atmosphere and feeling at Penn State and that has to be attributed to Joe Paterno, from whom Scherer said he got the philosophical foundation for his coaching career.

Scherer said that Paterno, to stay with the times, has made adjustments over the years. "He's flexible, but the principles upon which his program was built remain the same."

He said the primary thing he brings from his days under Paterno is "the fact that you can win at a high level of college football and not compromise the integrity of the institu-



Alabama's new assistant head coach for offense, Rip Scherer, knows what it's like to be in a bigtime football program. He relishes the challenges he faces.

Barry Fikes Photo

tion, the young men you're coaching, or yourself. And that major college football can be a vehicle for enhancing all of these areas.

"From a pure coaching standpoint, I learned that no detail is so minor that it should be overlooked, that details make a difference."

Scherer said that Paterno is an extremely organized individual who demands perfection from anybody who has anything to do with the football program, and that Coach Joe will settle for nothing less. He said that Paterno realizes that perfection is an unattainable state but that, nonetheless, the coach of the 1986 national champions believes it is something worth striving for.

"I've tried to take some of those things from him," said Scherer, whose father was a high school coach in Pennsylvania for 25 years and remains a very close friend of the Penn State coach.

"I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for Coach Paterno," Scherer said, recalling the 1975 season when, coincidentally, the Nittany Lions lost to Alabama in the first Sugar Bowl Game played in the New Orleans Superdome. He then related an incident which stuck out in his mind.

"We were in a staff meeting prior to the

bowl game selections. The telephone rang and I answered it. The caller asked to speak to Coach Paterno and I explained that he was in a staff meeting. I then said, 'May I take a message?' and asked who was calling. When he said 'Paul Bryant,' I went in a heartbeat to get Coach Paterno.

"I guess that's when they worked out the Sugar Bowl arrangements because the next day we announced that we were going to go to the Sugar Bowl to play Alabama."

Scherer said that Paterno has helped him get almost every job that he's had. "He's had a hand in it, either directly or indirectly, and I'm grateful to him," stated Scherer.

"That's why I feel so comfortable with Coach Curry, because he stands for the same things," stated Scherer. "I've been with Coach Curry for seven years now, so he's probably had the biggest impact on me."

Scherer said that Curry has influenced him in so many ways that it's hard to isolate just one or two. "He wants us to have a commitment to be successful on the field, but at the same time, to play a major role in the development of the lives of the young men we work with," Scherer related. "Coach Curry has taught me how to give more of myself in

all areas of my life, without expecting or looking for something in return. He also draws on and shares with us things he has learned from playing and working for people like Vince Lombardi, Don Shula, Chuck Noll, and Chuck Knox."

Scherer said that Holtz was also a perfectionist, very demanding, and a great motivator. Those qualities have helped him move from William and Mary, where Scherer quarterbacked his Indians, to North Carolina State, the New York Jets, Arkansas, Minnesota, and now Notre Dame.

With both Penn State and the Fighting Irish on Alabama's schedule this season, Scherer said that it's coincidental that he'll be coaching against "two of the people I truly respect in football, both of whom had a major impact on my career."

Sentiments aside, Scherer knows he's got the talent to work with at quarterback and that it's his job to get the Tide QBs ready to not only compete with, but beat, the Nittany Lions and Notre Dame. That's because you have to beat the best, along with the other teams on the Tide slate, in order to win the national championship. And that, after all, is why Bill Curry, Rip Scherer, and the rest of the former Georgia Tech staffers came to Alabama.

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She's Only Just Begun

by Jan Miller

Flora Hyacinth is a relative newcomer to track and field, but already a big success

Flora Hyacinth remembers the day vividly. "It was April 1, 1984, two years ago," she said. "That was my very first track meet. My church hosted an annual track meet and since I had nothing else to do that day, I entered."

That's not the kind of track and field meet apt to draw a large number of spectators, but one person watching was an area high school coach, Ciprani Phillip. "He saw me running and I guess I was as good as the athletes he had," said Flora. "I agreed. Two weeks later I was representing St. Thomas (she is from St. Croix in the Virgin Islands) and two months after that I was representing the Virgin Islands in the Central American and Caribbean Games." She placed third in that competition. Two years later she's winning for Alabama.

Coaches have many words for it. Raw talent. Untapped potential. Athleticism.

They all apply to Bama sophomore Flora Hyacinth, one of the most versatile athletes in the annals of Alabama track and field. Flora let the Southeastern Conference in on the secret of her track and field potential as a freshman, winning the Commissioner's Trophy as the highest individual scorer in the outdoor conference meet. Alone she scored 26 1/2 points, more than seventh place Auburn. She finished second in the triple jump, second in the long jump, fourth in the 100-meter hurdles, fourth in the 400-meter hurdles, and was a member of Bama's winning 400-meter relay team.

Incredibly, the conference meet was her first ever competition in the triple jump. And now she holds the indoor and outdoor Alabama women's records in the event and earned All-America for her performance at this year's national indoor meet. "Coach (Wayne) Williams told me a week before last year's SEC Championships that I would be competing in the triple jump," said Flora. "All I could think of was how badly I wanted to score at least one point!" Obviously she did a little better than that. In fact, on her first



The long jump is fairly basic. One runs, jumps, and goes as far as possible. Bama sophomore Flora Hyacinth is a standout in the event.

University of Alabama Photo

attempt she soared 40-8, breaking the Alabama and SEC records and qualifying in her sixth event for the NCAA Championships. (The triple jump has been a competitive college event for women for only three years.)

Although she was edged out for the individual championship in the final round of triple jump competition, nevertheless it was an auspicious debut. The feat is even more remarkable considering that she taught herself an approach only moments before the event got under way. She modestly says that the principles and drills of long jump training transferred easily to the triple jump.

She is excited about her future in the triple jump. "I wish I could be the best in the long jump, but I think my best bet is the triple," she said. "Although I haven't practiced it long, I'm consistently jumping in the 42-foot range. Something just tells me I can hit 45." By hitting 45 she would be matching the world's best. "That's my goal," she says. "I want that world's best."

All-America citations are given for a top six finish in the NCAA championships. At the recent indoor meet she returned a two-time All-America by finishing fourth in the long jump (20-9 1/4) and in the triple jump (41-11 1/2) and just missed a third citation, placing

seventh in the 55-meter hurdles (7.88). She is the 1987 SEC indoor champion in the triple jump and is the school record-holder in eight events. In just one and a half years she has become a five-time All-America and eight-time All-SEC (earned by finishing in the top three in an event) performer.

Track & Field News currently has her ranked 15th in the nation and second among resident foreigners in the 400 hurdles, third among resident foreigners in the long jump, and first in the triple jump. She is also a member of Bama's 1600-meter relay team that is ranked 20th in the world.

Flora is coached by Alabama Head Coach Doug Williamson in the triple and long jump and by Assistant Coach Wayne Williams in the sprints, hurdles and relays.

An accomplished student as well, she is double majoring in English and Spanish with a minor in French. She hopes to pursue a career in international law.

"I believe in setting goals and then doing my best to accomplish them," she said. "I don't want to settle for being good. I want to work to be the best that is possible. I think I'm more mentally mature than last year and that helps me to focus on all my events better."

And, as the song goes, she's only just begun.

Roland Still Has His Marks

by Mark A. Morrison

Three decades after he played, Frank Roland is still in Bama's baseball record book

The year, 1956. The sport, baseball. The team, Alabama. The pitcher, Frank Roland. The record, a perfect 12-0, which some 30 years later remains the finest in storied Crimson Tide baseball history.

Sound like a trip down memory lane? Well it is, especially if you're record holder Frank Roland who hasn't suited up for the Crimson

Tide in almost three decades.

"I loved it," Roland said, referring to the 1956 season when he served as Alabama's pitcher extraordinaire. "Records are nice, but one thing very significant about the 12-0 mark is that it is a result of the team I played for that year.

"We had a lot of great ball players like Herb Kosten, Jack Kubiszyn, Fred Frickie and J. P. Anderson (all of whom were All-Southeastern Conference performers). It's a team record as much as it is a personal record."

Team record, perhaps, but it's not the only record in Crimson Tide honor books which has Roland's name next to it.

And the records speak for themselves.

In addition to owning the single season re-

cord of most victories (12), the Roland report card reads: two-time All-SEC (1956-1957); most complete games in a season (10); best won-lost pitching percentage in a season at 1.000 (12-0, 1956); best won-lost pitching percentage in a career at .955 (21-1, 1954-57); fewest hits allowed per nine innings in a career at 6.00 (1954-57).

Other single-season superlatives include most innings pitched in 1956 (61.1) and 1957 (95.2); best earned run average in 1956 (2.35) and 1957 (1.76); and most strikeouts in 1956 (72) and 1957 (43).

While at the Capstone Roland helped guide Alabama to a 64-25 record. Not bad for a team that only averaged about 22 contests a season. Alabama now plays approximately a 60-game schedule.

Walk softly and throw an overpowering fastball. This philosophy, mixed with a deceptive curve, could best be used to describe the hard throwing lefthander.

"Frank was the bread and butter of our team," said another Alabama great and teammate of Roland, Jack Kubiszyn.

"Frank was a very smart pitcher and had great control. He was always dependable and durable. It seemed like when we won he pitched; 1956 was an outstanding year for him. He was one of the best, if not the best, pitchers in the SEC that year. His record and All-SEC honors proved that. It says something about his talent when his records still hold up today."

Kubiszyn said he remembers Roland was a stopper. "It seemed like when he pitched that Alabama hitters gave him good support. And when our offense didn't hit well then Frank would shut the other team down, so it didn't matter."

His talents on the mound did not develop over night. Roland remembers wanting to become a big leaguer while growing up in Memphis.

"Like most youngsters growing up I had dreams. The St. Louis Cardinals were the closest big league club to Memphis, so most of my early fond memories of baseball involve watching Stan 'The Man' Musial play," he said.

A three-sports standout at Central High

Frank Roland was the bellcow of outstanding Alabama baseball teams in the mid-1950s and is still prominent in the Crimson Tide record book.

University of Alabama Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '87



School in Memphis, Roland was what Frank Broyles would call an "athlete." He loved football and basketball as well as baseball. However, baseball was his game. In 1953 he chose to sign with Alabama on a full scholarship over offers from other SEC schools as well as offers from Duke and Florida State.

"At that time Alabama was one of the top baseball programs in the south," Roland said. "Coach (Tilden) Campbell already had the reputation of being one of best coaches in the country."

Another deciding factor for Roland's siding with Alabama was Kosten. Kosten, a close friend and high school teammate of Roland, also signed with the Tide. The two were roommates for four years while at Alabama. Kosten became a two-time All-SEC performer in 1955 and 1956.

"Herb was a great ball player and we both wanted to be a part of the Alabama baseball tradition," Roland said.

A key to the Tide's success on the diamond was due in a large part to Campbell. Better known as "Happy" Campbell, he served as mentor of Alabama baseball for 25 years before stepping down in 1964 to the legendary Joe Sewell, a 1977 inductee to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Campbell rolled up an impressive 284-123 mark as coach of the Crimson Tide, including 10 SEC championships and one NCAA South Regional title.

"I'm very proud to be a part of the Alabama tradition, especially having the privilege to play for Coach Campbell," Roland said.

"Coach Campbell really knew his baseball and put a lot of faith and credibility in the individual player. If he respected you he'd let you do your own thing."

"The disciplined athlete was one of his trademarks. He was a very serious and disciplined coach and he wanted his players to be the same."

"I had a real good relationship with Coach Campbell. I was a fanatic about staying in shape so he let me do pretty much what I wanted to stay in top condition."

A pitcher in Roland's days had to be in top physical shape. And there were a few reasons why this was important. One reason was simply that the role of the reliever had not yet been established. Secondly, there was no designated hitter. The pitcher had to be a good hitter. Also, the team rosters were not as crowded, meaning pitchers had less rest between games and many times had to play other positions rather than just pitch.

"A pitcher was expected to go the full nine

innings," Roland recalls. "The way the pitching rotation was set up in 1956 I usually pitched every Friday and then would turn around and pitch one game of a doubleheader on Saturday."

"My arm would usually be sore the day after I pitched so I finally went to Coach Campbell and told him I would rather pitch both games of the doubleheader on Saturday rather than divide my pitching duties on Friday and Saturday."

"I remember Coach Campbell letting me do that twice. And one of those times I pitched two complete games against Auburn, winning them both."

Winning became a habit with Roland. He posted a 21-1 career mark for the Crimson Tide.

The one time Roland took the mound and did not come away with a victory was a contest which remembers like it was only yesterday.

"We were playing Louisiana State University at home and we led by two runs in the top of the ninth inning. LSU had two men on base and I remember throwing a lollipop pitch to the batter who drilled it for a base hit and both runs scored," he said.

Roland recalls an overseas tour by the Crimson Tide in 1957 to play teams in Japan, Korea, Okinawa, and Hawaii as a highlight of his days at The Capstone.

"We flew over in June 1957 and played teams made up mostly of U.S. servicemen, but we also played a few foreign teams," he said.

Upon returning from the overseas tour Roland signed with the Kansas City Royals farm system and pitched a year before serving in the Army for six months.

Roland had received an accounting degree from The University before signing with the Royals. And during the offseason he worked for an accounting firm in Birmingham.

Roland spent his last full year as a professional pitcher in the Alabama-Florida league with a team from Selma, Alabama. He posted a 22-5 mark as a professional. However, he saw a brighter future in the business world. So he said goodbye to the \$800 a month professional baseball salary and went to work fulltime as an accountant.

The move paid off for Roland, who now serves as senior vice president to a New York Stock Exchange building products company, H. H. Robertson and Company in Pittsburgh. He has two children, Frank, who is a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, and Ashley, a senior in high school in Houston, Texas.

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The football story of the Alabama Crimson Tide, from 1892 through 1982, included some of the greatest and most colorful players, coaches and games. This high-quality, 90-minute videotape, narrated by nationally-known broadcaster Jack Drees and Alabama color commentator Doug Layton, includes films and interviews of the men who built and sustained Alabama football. (This videotape is a re-edited version of two separate shows formerly offered by DE Sports Productions.)

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BAMA SCORECARD

Tower Report

It was like seeing an old friend. Among the many decisions to be made by Athletics Director Steve Sloan and Head Football Coach Bill Curry as they feel their way in new surroundings, it may be that the best was to return Coach Paul Bryant's tower to the Alabama practice field. The tower had expected to be made a part of the new Paul W. Bryant Museum on campus, but it was refurbished and erected on its old Thomas Field site. The tower had been removed by former Head Coach Ray Perkins because he did not coach from a tower. Curry doesn't coach from a tower either, but felt it would be a source of inspiration for his players.

Humphrey Selected

Alabama tailback Bobby Humphrey is being selected for a lot of all-star teams following his stellar sophomore season. And he's also been selected by the NCAA to pre-record messages to be aired during college football telecasts next fall. Humphrey will join a number of top players in Tempe, Arizona, site of the Fiesta Bowl, in mid-May to be videotaped speaking on the Boys Club of America. Last year Tide quarterback Mike Shula was selected to produce the messages.

Television Guess

Although there have been various reports of games that will be televised by CBS (which is doing Southeastern Conference football this year), Alabama officials say there are no Tide games firmly established for telecast. Best bets are easy, Bama games at Penn State October 24 and Notre Dame November 14 and against Auburn in Birmingham November 28.

Bama can be televised up to four times by CBS, twice by ESPN and an unlimited number of times by WTBS.

Alabama's 1987 schedule currently has two night games slated, at Vanderbilt September 26 and at LSU November 7. The Southwestern Louisiana game October 3 has a 3:30 p.m. start in order that Alabama homecoming events can be held in Tuscaloosa with fans able to then make it to Legion Field in Birmingham. There is also a possible time change coming in the Mississippi State game (currently listed as 1:30 CDT) October 31 since the annual Alabama State-Alabama A&M game is also scheduled for Birmingham that day.

No Mustangs Expected

Alabama football coaches were among the horde descending on Dallas when SMU's football program was given the death penalty by the NCAA last month. However, it appears unlikely any of the Mustangs will transfer to Alabama. Most of the SMU players electing to transfer have reportedly decided to go to schools which are on the quarter sys-

tem so they can take part in spring training. Among the biggest winners appears to be UCLA.

Bama's best shot (and not a very good chance) for an SMU transfer is reported to be Archie Fairley, a 6-1, 280-pound sophomore who was the number two center for the Mustangs last year. Fairley, who is from Moss Point, Mississippi, was rumored to be deciding between Alabama and Mississippi State.

That means the Tide's football recruiting is probably over, defensive back Brian Stutson of Birmingham Parker the 19th and final addition. He was all-state and second team All-South. Stutson, 6-1, 190, turned in 21 interceptions and returned six of them for touchdowns in his final two seasons for Coach Cecil Leonard. He led Parker in primary tackles with 63 last year. He is also an honor student and outstanding basketball player.

Recruiting Grades

Alabama has not fared as well as last year in preliminary grades issued by those who publish various recruiting newsletters.

Southeastern Recruiting has Alabama ranked 17th in the nation and seventh in the Southeast. Bill Buchalter has ranked Bama's 1986 crop as eighth best in the South and 18th best in the nation. Tom Lemming and G&W both have Alabama 24th in the nation. Max Emfinger's National High School rankings show the Tide ninth in the South.

Nevertheless, some Bama signees are given very high marks. Southeastern Recruiting has the Tide leading the South in number of "Nifty Fifty" signees with eight, including placekicker Philip Doyle who is listed as one of the South's 12 top performers. Other Bama signees on the elite list are lineman Scott Bolt, linebacker Tony Cox, center Jody Dowda, defensive back Stacy Harrison, linebacker Keith McCants, linebacker Steve Ramer and defensive lineman Steve Webb. Southeastern also lists non-Southerner Russ McCullough as a five-star (highest ranking) prospect.

Emfinger lists a number of Tiders-to-be on his blue chip list. Webb, Ramer, McCants and Doyle are all listed as gold chippers (among the best 30 players in the South), with Ramer listed as the region's best outside linebacker, McCants as the best inside linebacker. Also earning mention on the list are fullback Kevin Turner, Dowda, Bolt, defensive tackle George Thornton and Harrison.

Colburn Added

Former Bama defensive back Rocky Colburn (1982-84) has been added to the Crimson Tide staff as assistant to Strength Coach Rich Wingo.

Low Expectations

Alabama Head Swimming Coach Don Gambril is a lot like the boy who called 'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '87

"Wolf!" Gambril can be counted on to publicly expect the worst; but his Crimson Tide teams usually perform well.

Gambril had a realistic hope that his women's team would crack the top 20 at the NCAA Championships. The women made that goal with ease, finishing 16th—one of six SEC teams in the top 20. Sophomore Charlotte Brock earned All-America for her seventh place finish in the 100 breaststroke and eight Bama women earned honorable mention All-America in the national meet. Katrine Bomstad was honored in individual events, while Katie Williams, Jennifer Kirrsetter, Beth Gardner, Pernille Nimb, Anita Harrison, Cynthia Kangos and Sandi Scipio were on relay teams finishing in the top 12. The team of Williams, Kirrsetter, Gardner and Nimb broke the school record in the 800 freestyle relay.

The men's championships were scheduled in Austin, Texas, the first weekend in April and Gambril went on record as hoping his men could do as well as the women. Of course, Gambril had also predicted a third or fourth place finish for his men in the SEC Championships, which Alabama won by upsetting Florida. The Tide finished eighth in the 1986 championships and went 12-1 in 1987 dual meet competition to earn a ninth place national ranking going into the NCAA championships.

Untracked

Alabama's track and field team went to the prestigious Florida Relays with slim hopes. Bama's most outstanding man, NCAA champion Keith Talley, and long sprinter Larry Cantrell were kept back to nurse minor injuries. Additionally, the Tide's most outstanding woman, Lillie Leatherwood-King, stayed home for a much needed rest after a strenuous indoor season. But an unexpected loss came by mail. Peter McColgan, defending SEC champion in the steeplechase, was selected by his country (Northern Ireland) to compete in the World Cross Country Championships in Poland. Instead of returning he sent a letter saying he would not be coming back.

Nevertheless, Coach Doug Williamson's team surprised him. Alfonzo Henson won the 400-meter run in :46.07 and freshman Siggy Matthiasson placed third in the open division of the javelin with a throw of 223-4, both NCAA championship qualifying marks. On the women's side, Flora Hyacinth qualified for the championships with a :58.06 time in the 400 hurdles.

Alabama track and field teams have traditionally been better outdoors than indoors. This year's women's team finished tied for second in the SEC championships and 10th in the NCAA championships without Leatherwood-King. The Tide men were fifth in the SEC meet, 13th nationally (all the points



Alabama football signee Byron Sneed was described in last month's magazine, but his photograph was not available. It is hoped that we will also be able to publish photographs of signees George Thornton and Brian Stutson in the future.

coming from Talley's individual championship in the high hurdles). This year Bama will host the SEC Championships May 13-16. The Tide will also have a home appearance in the Alabama Invitational May 2, a meet that will include NCAA indoor champions Arkansas (men) and LSU (women).

World Championship

While Lillie Leatherwood-King, Bama's outstanding 400-meter performer, was red-shirted during indoor track and field season, the senior was far from idle. Competing unattached, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist was a star performer at a number of meets during the winter. And now she has a world championship to her credit.

Although she seemed to have placed second to Sabine Busch of East Germany in the World Indoor Track and Field Championships in Indianapolis, a review of the videotape showed Busch running out of her lane, earning her a disqualification and giving the title to Leatherwood-King. The world's fifth-ranked women in the 400, she will be defending her NCAA title in that event this spring.

Good Addition

When Alabama Women's Golf Coach Dick Spybey started adding up the rounds his team had played, he realized that three rounds of rainouts in the Lady Gator Invitational and the LSU Invitational could cost his team when NCAA bids went out. So Spybey got his team entered in the Lady Hilltopper at Murray, Kentucky. It turned out to be a nice addition as Bama won the title by 15 strokes over runnerup Kentucky. Bama's Sofia Gronberg shot rounds of 71-71-142 for the individual championship.

Off The Beam

Going into the SEC Gymnastics champi-

onships, Bama Coach Sarah Patterson pointed out that "This meet doesn't qualify us for anything," a reference to the fact that in gymnastics it is NCAA regional competition that leads to the NCAA championships. Last year Bama was third in the NCAA. This year the Tide was third in the SEC, as Bama delivered "our worst performance of the year," according to Patterson. Bama's undoing was the beam, where four of six Tide competitors fell. The meet championship went to Georgia, which is ranked first in the nation. The Tide's Julie Estin finished second in all-around competition.

Basketball Banquet

The Tuscaloosa Tipoff Club's annual basketball awards banquet will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, in the Ferguson Center Ballroom. Anyone wanting tickets (\$20 each) should contact either Alex Gatewood (752-2990) or Spencer Burchfield (345-6950) in Tuscaloosa.

Camp Time

There are a lot more choices for summer camp these days, including a handful of sports camps at The University of Alabama.

Bill Curry's football camps will be June 10-13 (kicking), June 14-17 and June 17-20. Wimp Sanderson's basketball camps will be June 21-26 and July 5-10, while Lois Myers has a women's basketball camp July 12-17.

Roger Smith's baseball camps will be June 1-5 in Jasper, June 8-12 in Decatur, June 15-19 (day camp) and June 21-26 (overnight) in Tuscaloosa and July 6-10 in Guntersville.

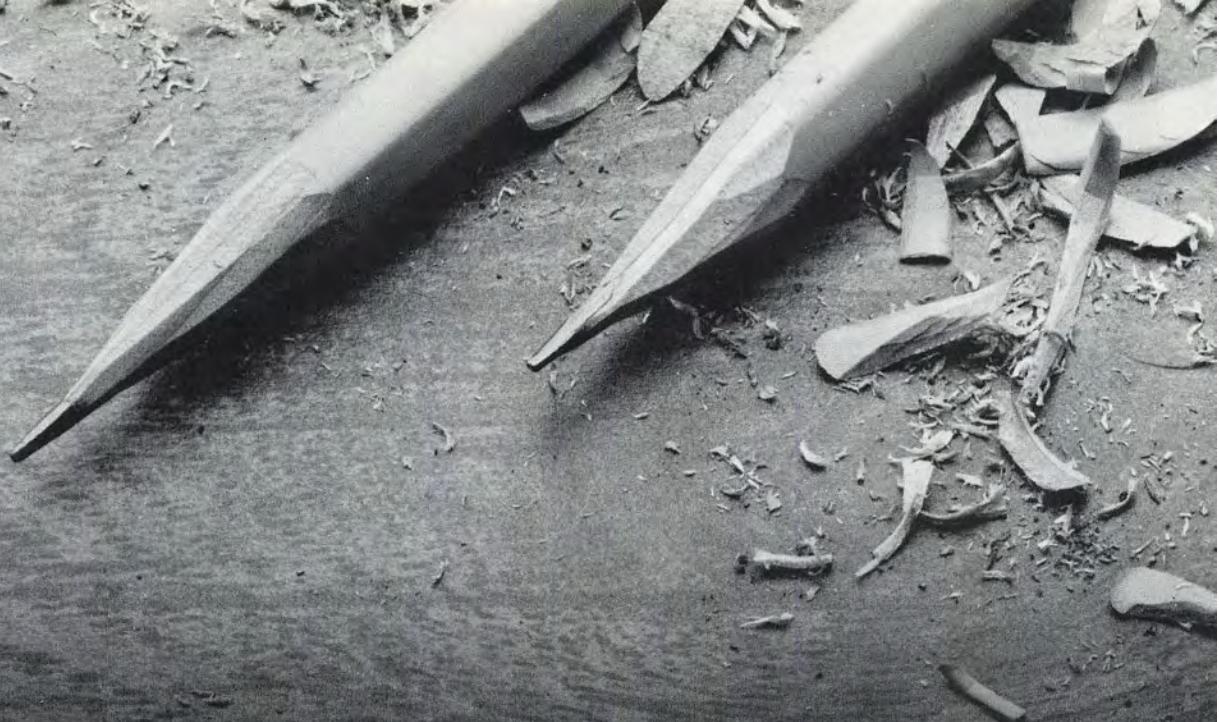
Conrad Rehling has golf camps May 31-June 5, June 7-12, June 14-19, June 7-19 (elite) and June 14-19 (adults). Tommy Wade's tennis camps will be June 14-19 and June 21-26.

Don Gambril's swim camps are scheduled weekly from May 24 through July 24 (including masters and triathlon camps). Sarah Patterson's gymnastics camps are June 14-19, June 21-26 and August 2-7 plus minicamps July 5-8 and July 29-August 1.

For complete information and application write to the coach, P.O. Box K, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486.

Press Guides

Alabama's sports information office is now taking orders for press guides. The 1987 football press guide, to be mailed in early August, is \$7, the 1987-88 basketball press guide (to be mailed in November) is \$6 and this year's baseball press guide (available now) is \$5. Make checks payable to University of Alabama and mail to Press Guide, P.O. Box K, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486. The office also has a limited number of full color 1986-87 football calendars available at \$5 each. Those checks should be made payable to Alabama Football Calendar.



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ALABAMA'S SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

Baseball

4	Western Kentucky 10
6	Western Kentucky 5
10	Samford 1
5	@ South Alabama 1
8	@ South Alabama 9
8	Alabama-Birmingham 5
10	Alabama State 1
6	Tennessee 3
4	Tennessee 2
5	@ New Orleans 10
5	@ New Orleans 6
3	(@ Florida 8
6	(@ Florida 9
5	(@ Florida 2
9	Jackson State 2
9	Jackson State 6
2	Middle Tennessee 10
4	Kentucky 7
9	Kentucky 11
7	Kentucky 5
11	Southern Miss 12
1	@ LSU 0
3	@ LSU 4
April 1	North Alabama (7 p.m.)
April 2	@ Alabama-Birmingham (7 p.m.)
April 4	Central Florida (7 p.m.)
April 5	Central Florida (7 p.m.)
April 7	@ Jackson State (2 p.m.)
April 11	@ Georgia (2, 6 p.m.)
April 12	@ Georgia (1:30 p.m.)
April 14	Alcorn State (7 p.m.)
April 15	Alcorn State (2 p.m.)
April 18	Vanderbilt (2, 6 p.m.)
April 19	Vanderbilt (2 p.m.)
April 21	South Alabama (7 p.m.)
April 22	South Alabama (7 p.m.)
April 25	@ Auburn (2, 6 p.m.)
April 26	@ Auburn (2 p.m.)
April 30	Faulkner State (7 p.m.)
May 2	Ole Miss (2, 6 p.m.)
May 3	Ole Miss (2 p.m.)
May 5	@ Southern Miss (6:30 p.m.)
May 7	Auburn @ Dothan (7 p.m.)
May 9	@ Mississippi State (2, 6 p.m.)
May 10	@ Mississippi State (2 p.m.)
May 12	Auburn @ Huntsville (7 p.m.)
May 14-18	SEC Tournament

Women's Tennis

1	Georgia 8
9	Southern Miss 0
5	Georgia Tech 1
9	Memphis State 0
2	Mississippi State 7
8	Birmingham-Southern 1
7	Austin-Peay 2
8	Vanderbilt 1
5	Alabama-Birmingham 1
5	North Florida 4
0	@ Kentucky 9
8	Illinois @ Lexington 1
3	William & Mary @ Lexington 6

Brigham Young Invitational

4	Utah 5
5	Nebraska 2

1	Wisconsin 8
0	Brigham Young 9

2	Santa Barbara 5
9	Jeff State 0

5	Tulane 4
0	Florida 9

April 10-12 (Lamar, LSU, Southwest Louisiana)

April 10-12 (Lamar, LSU, Southwest Louisiana)

April 15 Tennessee

April 18 @ Auburn

April 24-26 SEC Tournament, Lexington

Men's Tennis

@ Wake Forest 4
(@) North Carolina State 1
Mississippi State 2
Southeast Louisiana 1
South Alabama 1
Georgia Southern 1
Alabama-Birmingham 1
@ Florida State 3
@ Florida 6
Murray State 1
Tennessee Tech 1
Southern Illinois 1
Louisville 1

Blue-Gray, Montgomery

Clemson 5

Minnesota 1

Northeast Louisiana

Indiana

Tennessee

Ole Miss

LSU

@ Kentucky

@ Vanderbilt

@ Georgia

Auburn

@ Mississippi State

SEC Tournament, Gainesville

Men's Track

March 20-21	Paper Tiger Invitational, Baton Rouge
March 27-28	Florida Relays, Gainesville
April 3-4	Texas Relays, Austin
April 11	Cajun Classic, Lafayette, La.
April 18	Mississippi State Invitational
April 24-25	Drake Relays, Des Moines, Iowa
May 2	Alabama Invitational
May 13-16	SEC Championships
May 22-23	Gatorade Classic, Knoxville
May 30	Last Chance Invitational, Tallahassee
June 3-6	NCAA Championships, Baton Rouge

Men's Golf

Feb. 6-8	National Collegiate, Miami (4th of 18 teams)
Feb. 13-15	Gator Invitational, Gainesville (15th of 19 teams)
Feb. 20-22	Seminole Invitational, Tallahassee (12th of 24 teams)
March 16-17	Cajun Classic, Lafayette, La. (12th of 12 teams)
March 27-29	Southeastern Invitational, Montgomery (8th of 18 teams)
April 10-12	Jerry Pate Invitational, Pensacola
April 17-19	Jackson (Miss.) Classic
April 24-26	Chris Schenkel, Statesboro, Ga.
May 8-10	SEC Tournament, Florence

Women's Golf

Feb. 20-22	Lady Gator, Gainesville (1st of 12 teams)
Feb. 27-March 1	LSU Invitational (4th of 15 teams)
March 6-8	Troy Invitational, Eufaula (2nd of 15 teams)
March 27-29	Hilltopper, Murray, Ky. (1st of 8 teams)
April 3-5	Duke Invitational
April 24-26	Women's Southern, Athens, Ga.
May 8-10	SEC Tournament, Pine Mountain, Ga.

Women's Track

March 20-21	Paper Tiger Invitational, Baton Rouge
March 27-28	Florida Relays, Gainesville
April 3-4	Texas Relays, Austin
April 11	Cajun Classic, Lafayette, La.
April 18	Mississippi State Invitational
April 24-25	Drake Relays, Des Moines, Iowa
May 2	Alabama Invitational
May 13-16	SEC Championships
May 22-23	Gatorade Classic, Knoxville
May 30	Last Chance Invitational, Tallahassee
June 3-6	NCAA Championships, Baton Rouge

Bama, Auburn Reach Compromise

by Kirk McNair

Secret plan means game will remain in Birmingham on semiannual basis

Although a recent announcement from The University of Alabama and Auburn University athletics departments regarding discussion of the future site of the football series between the two schools emphasized that neither participant would have any further comment on negotiations until settlement was reached, **BAMA** has learned some of the details of the impending agreement.

First a bit of background. For various reasons, following the 1907 season football relations between Alabama and Auburn ended. In the ensuing years Alabama became a national football powerhouse, earning fame for Crimson Tiders in great part to Bama's Rose Bowl success; Auburn had a major upset over Georgia in the 1940s and went to the Bicardi Bowl. Both were members of the Southeastern Conference, which Alabama dominated, but the two did not play. Auburn played its home games in a 7,500-seat stadium, although the good teams on the Auburn schedule—Georgia Tech, Tennessee and Georgia—would not play in Auburn.

Beginning in 1948 Alabama once again consented to play Auburn, a season-ending game to be played in Birmingham's Legion Field. For Alabama it has meant two wins every three years, slightly below Bama's overall winning percentage of 73 percent. For Auburn it has meant undreamed of wealth and national exposure. Nothing is greedier than the *nouveau riche* and now Auburn wants more. Every two years Auburn wants Alabama to visit in the country (where the air is fresh unless the wind is blowing the wrong way from the Swine Research Center). This is popularly known as The Auburn Problem.

There are several reasons for Auburn's stand:

Partly it's the time of year the game is played, late November or early December. Auburn people don't want to be in the city during hog killing weather. More than an expression, hog killing is a way of life for many of them.

They also don't like city traffic, although much of this argument was negated by the number of Auburn cars and trucks in the parking lot at Legion Field for a recent tractor pull. (And Birmingham certainly is not as bad as New Orleans. Auburn made a rare Sugar Bowl appearance several years ago and a handful of rusting longbeds are still trapped in the narrow confines of the French Quarter alleys.)

The Auburn people also don't like their children being exposed to city life. There are more and more instances of second generation Auburn graduates going to work in the businesses owned and operated by Alabama graduates, usually located in metropolitan areas. It continues to be more and more difficult to keep them down on the farm.

Auburn professors also contributed to the argument, pointing out that the only time they are likely to see Auburn football players is by going to football games.

Also, Auburn people think they would have a better chance of beating Alabama in Auburn. Alabama people think they can beat Auburn anywhere, but they don't want to go to Timbuktu or Auburn or any other remote location to prove it.

Nevertheless, Alabama has come to recognize that Auburn should have some rights in determining the location of its football games. New Bama Athletics Director Steve Sloan hit on a neat solution to the problem.

There is a groundswell in Birmingham involving dozens of people who want Alabama-Birmingham to have a football team. However, UAB has a problem in that Alabama has a contract with the City of Birmingham preventing any other college team from playing games at Legion Field without Bama's permission.

Beginning in 1991, when the current Alabama-Auburn contract expires, UAB will replace Alabama on Auburn's schedule every other year. In the odd years, Auburn will host UAB. In the even years, Auburn will meet Alabama at Legion Field. Of course, in those odd years both Bama and Auburn will have to pick up a substitute Southeastern Conference game. That is not seen as a major problem. For Alabama it will mean just adding Florida, Georgia or Ole Miss. For Auburn it may mean dropping Chattanooga again and picking up Vanderbilt, Kentucky or LSU.

There was an unconfirmed report that UAB Athletics Director Gene Bartow, told of the news while vacationing at Long Beach, California, where once again he is not a candidate for any head basketball coaching job, was ecstatic. "This is the game everyone in the state of Alabama has been waiting for," he reportedly gushed. "We don't need to play Alabama to help our football program. Of course, we do need them to give us a place to play if we want any home games."

Alabama did have to make another concession to bring about the agreement. Auburn had insisted that "We kick off on grass beginning in 1992," so the 35-yard lines at Legion Field will be dug up and planted with strips of fescue. Initially Auburn was not satisfied with that plan, wanting a compromise whereby half the field—goaline to goaline from midfield to the Auburn sidelines—would be planted in pasture. However, the Auburn legal counsel had to admit that the wording of Auburn's insistence was fulfilled by the strips of grass on the 35s.

It appeared for awhile that negotiations would break down over another Auburn demand. However, the City of Birmingham refused to relinquish control of the city's fire hoses to Auburn officials. Both the city and Alabama officials assured Auburn that far more often than not the stands can be emptied following a football game without hosing down the customers. "You mean they'll just leave on their own when the game's over?" asked an incredulous Auburn official. He agreed to give the plan a chance, but warned, "That has not been our experience at Auburn."

Although official announcement of the plan will not be made for sometime, unofficially officials at both schools expressed pleasure at the agreement. "I think we did a typically good Auburn job of mule trading," said the livestock auctioneering professor who served as Auburn's chief negotiator. Bama's Sloan smiled and noted, "There's no fool like an April Fool."

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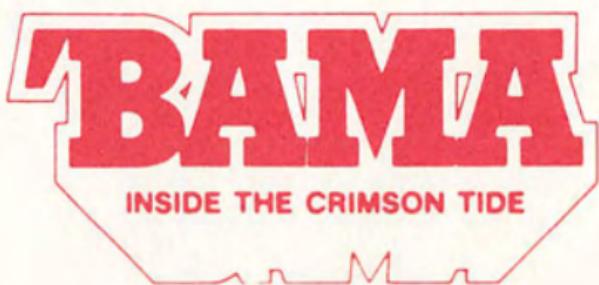
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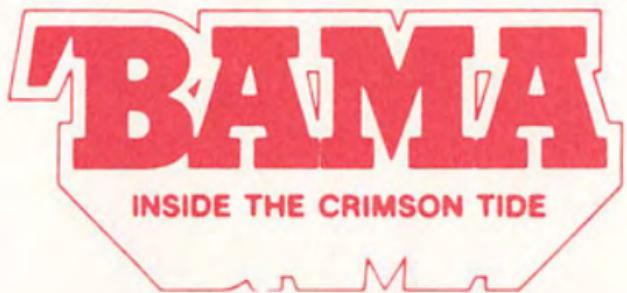
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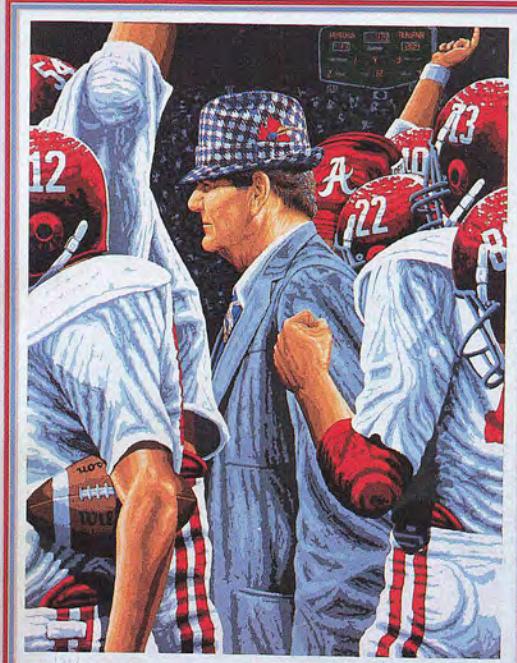
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Rush's first Alabama serigraph print "Sugar Bowl 1978" sold for only \$200 at the time of its release, now it sells for \$800. In 1979 his second print of the Alabama Suite entitled, "You Better Pass: Sugar Bowl 1979" was released at \$300 and today sells for well over \$1,000.

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